



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

19 January 1993

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Regrets Military Escalation Against Iraq [MENA]	1
'Abd-al-Majid Comments [Cairo Radio]	1
Arab League Welcomes Somali Agreement, Urges Cooperation [Cairo Radio]	1

Islamic Affairs

World Islamic Conference Held in Baghdad 16-18 Jan	1
Conference Opens; Ibrahim Speaks [INA]	1
Session Held at al-Rashid Hotel [Baghdad Radio]	2
Conference Final Statement [Baghdad Radio]	2

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Condemns 'Repeated Aggression' Against Iraq [Algiers VOP]	3
Appeal to 'Arafat [Sanaa VOP]	3
Fatah Meeting Reviews Current Issues [Algiers VOP]	4
Qaddumi Criticizes Arab League Statement on Deportees [AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]	4
Fatah Aide Rejects Deportees' Transfer to Third Country [MENA]	5
Urges U.S. To Restore Dialogue [MENA]	5
'Arafat Seeks Egyptian Brotherhood's Mediation With Hamas [AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY] ...	5
'Asrawi on Iraq Crisis, Ben-Eliezer's Assertions [HADASHOT 15 Jan]	5
Amman Paper Claims PFLP-GC's Jibril Suffered Thrombosis [AKHBAR AL-USBU' 14 Jan]	6
Jibril in 'Good Health' [Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]	6
Islamic Jihad Spokesman Comments on Tel Aviv Attack [Beirut Radio]	6
Retaliation for Deportations [VOL]	6
Two Wounded in Explosions in 'Ayn al-Hulwah 17 Jan [VOL]	6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Urges Restraint in Gulf [Algiers TV]	7
Council To Implement 1993 Political Program [Algiers Radio]	7
Minister Voices Doubts on Chemical Weapons Ban [APS]	7
Press Condemns Moroccan King's Remarks on Elections [Algiers Radio]	7
TV Commentary [Algiers TV]	8

Egypt

Aerial Attack Against Iraq Draws Reaction	8
Iraq Said Advised on Resolutions [AL-WAFD 16 Jan]	8
Position on Raid Against Iraq 'Unchanged' [Cairo Radio]	8
Parliamentary Committee Rejects Use of Force [MENA]	9
U.S. 'Aggression' Against Iraq Viewed [AL-AHRAM 16 Jan]	9
Libya's Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi Arrives for Visit [MENA]	9
Attends Rally in Matruh, Praises Mubarak [MENA]	10
Arrives in Cairo, Talks With Mubarak [MENA]	10
'Escalation' in Iraq Discussed [MENA]	10

Musa Denies Israeli Proposal To Host Deportees [MENA]	10
Musa Leaves for Israel for Talks 17 Jan [MENA]	10
Peace Process, Deportees Discussed [Cairo Radio]	11
Envoy to Israel Views 'Successful' Visit [Cairo International]	11
Commentary Views Visit, Mideast 'Tension' [Cairo Radio]	12
Musa Says Position on Hala'ib 'Unwavering,' Views Deportees [Cairo Radio]	12
Thirty 'Extremists' Arrested for Attack on Tour Bus [AL-AHRAM 13 Jan]	13

Libya

Iraqi Raids Termed Violation of Pan-Arab Security [JANA]	13
Malta Meeting Issues Statement of Solidarity [JANA]	13

Sudan

RCC Member Dismissed; Cabinet Reshuffled [Omdurman Radio]	14
Brotherhood Society Expresses Support for Iraq [SUNA]	14
Al-Bashir Receives al-Asad Message on Ties With Egypt [Damascus Radio]	15
Egyptian Acts at Hala'ib Regarded as 'Incursions' [SUNA]	15
Foreign Minister Comments on Hala'ib Issue [SUNA]	16
Al-Bashir Denies Moves To Reconcile With Opposition [SUNA]	16

Tunisia

Foreign Ministry Statement on Iraqi Situation [Tunis Radio]	16
Egyptian Prime Minister Pays Visit	16
Meets President [Cairo Radio]	16
Agreements Signed [Cairo Radio]	16
Joint Communiqué Issued [Tunis Radio]	17
Sidqi Comments, Departs [Tunis Radio]	18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Amir Inaugurates Consultative Assembly First Session [WAKH]	19
---	----

Kuwait

Reportage on Iraqi Border Situation	19
Protest to UN [Kuwait TV]	19
Defense Ministry Spokesman Comments [AFP]	19
Iraqi Policemen Remain [AFP]	19
Meeting With UN Envoys [KUNA]	19
Foreign Minister Comments [Kuwait TV]	20
Shooting Incident With Iraqi Infiltrators [Kuwait Radio]	20
Minister Wants UK, French Help [AFP]	20
'Maximum Alert' in North [MENA]	20
Scud Attack Denied [Kuwait Radio]	21
Border Posts Being Dismantled [Kuwait Radio]	21
Possession of Patriots Confirmed [Kuwait Radio]	21

Oman

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives, Received by Sultan Qabus [Muscat Radio]	21
Discussion of Relations [Amman Radio]	21
King Leaves [Muscat Radio]	21

Saudi Arabia

Council Stresses Respect for All UN Resolutions [SPA]	22
---	----

Residents Say Air Raid Sirens Sound Twice 18 Jan [AFP]	22
Papers Call For Overthrow of Iraq's Saddam [SPA]	22
Further Press Reaction 16 Jan [SPA]	23
18 Jan Comment [SPA]	23
19 Jan Comment [SPA]	24

Yemen

President Receives Saddam's Message, Denounces Raids [Sanaa Radio]	24
Croatian Minister Holds Talks, Delivers Letter for Salih [Sanaa Radio]	24

IRAQ

Reportage on Disputed UN Inspection Flights	25
Iraqi Official on UN Flights [Baghdad Radio]	25
Official Response to UN Demands [Baghdad Radio]	25
UN Said To Deny Bush Ultimatum [INA]	26
Inspectors Waiting for Assurances [AFP]	26
Request Said To Be 'American Ploy' [INA]	26
UN 'Not Informed' of Safety Guarantee [AFP]	26
'Aziz News Conference 16 Jan [INA]	27
Flights' Safety Conditionally Ensured [Baghdad Radio]	28
Ministry Memo on Flights Safety [INA]	28
Reportage on Events Leading Up to 17 Jan Raid	29
Gunners Ordered To Fire [AFP]	29
Aircraft Said Failed To Reach Targets [INA]	30
Defenses Make 'Enemy' Planes 'Flee' [INA]	30
'Izzat Ibrahim Decries West [AFP]	30
Spokesman: Air Defenses Intercept 'Enemy' Targets [Baghdad Radio]	31
Second Anniversary of Gulf War Commemorated	31
Commemorative Events Announced [Baghdad Radio]	31
Assembly Session Held 16 Jan [Baghdad Radio]	31
Saddam Husayn Anniversary Speech [Baghdad Radio]	32
Demonstrations Held 17 Jan [Baghdad Radio]	40
Shooting Down of Plane by 'Aggressors' Announced [Baghdad Radio]	41
Saddam Acknowledges Attack, Urges 'Strike' [Baghdad Radio]	41
Saddam Chairs Meeting of Senior Officials [INA]	41
Spokesman Denies Target Was Nuclear Facility [AFP]	42
Reportage on Damage to Baghdad al-Rashid Hotel	42
Hotel Reportedly Hit By U.S. [AFP]	42
Two Employees Said Killed [Baghdad Radio]	42
INA on Casualties in Attack on al-Rashid Hotel [INA]	42
Saddam Visits Wounded [Baghdad Radio]	42
Further on Saddam's Visit [INA]	43
'Account' of Missile Attack [INA]	43
Prime Minister Attends Hotel Funeral [INA]	43
Visits al-Rashid Hotel [Baghdad Radio]	43
Renovation Work on Hotel Begins [INA]	43
Spokesman Says Civilian Facility Hit in Raid [INA]	43
Spokesman Rounds Up 17 Jan Military Activities [Baghdad Radio]	44
Commentary Reacts to U.S. Statements on Attack [Baghdad Radio]	44
Moral Guidance Directorate Appeal to Air Defense Fighters [Baghdad Radio]	45
Saddam Chairs Air Force Command Meeting 18 Jan [INA]	45
Spokesman Confirms 18 Jan Air Strikes, Casualties [Baghdad Radio]	45
MENA Cited on 'Panic' in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait [Baghdad Radio]	46
Six 'Huge' Explosions Rock Eastern Iraqi Cities [IRNA]	46
Spokesman Says Eight Missiles Shot Down 17 Jan [INA]	46
Soldiers Awarded for Reportedly Downing Missiles [Baghdad Radio]	46
Casualties Reported After Shelling in South [Voice of Iraqi People]	47
Baghdad Sirens Sound in Response to 'Hostile Air Raid' [INA]	47
U.S. Aircraft May Have Shot Down Plane in North [AFP]	47

Tariq Aziz Comments on Recent Developments [Baghdad Radio]	47
Ramadan Rejects Infringement on 'Full' Sovereignty [Baghdad Radio]	49
UN Committee Asserts 'Independence' From Allies [AFP]	49
Ibrahim Meets Turkish Party Official, Others [Baghdad Radio]	49
Minister Reacts to Kuwait's Request for Troops [Baghdad Radio]	50
Bush Said Seeking To Involve Clinton in 'Aggression' [INA]	50
Paper Says Bush's 'Bloodbath' Concludes Presidency [INA]	50
Saddam Adviser Addresses Message to Clinton [INA]	51
Bush's Hostile Policy Said Lesson to Others [INA]	53
'Deadly End' of 'Damnable Criminal Bush' Viewed [Baghdad Radio]	54
Al-Sahhaf on U.S. Relations in Interview [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	54
Kurdish Reaction To Allied Raids on Iraq	56
Saddam Should be Target [Voice of Kurdistan]	56
Army Urged To Disobey Orders [Voice of Kurdistan]	57
Army Urged To Rebel [Voice of Kurdistan]	57
Ba'ath Party National Command on 'Aggression' [Baghdad Radio]	57
Arab States Urged To Break Silence After U.S. Raid [London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 14 Jan]	58
Envoy Informs Arab League of Coalition Aircraft Violations [INA]	59
Arab League Informed of 14-15 Jan 'Violations' [INA]	59
Dismissal of U.S. Military Commander Reported [Baghdad Radio]	59
Fuel Purchases Limited to Cars [Baghdad Radio]	59
Supply Rations Ordered Increased 'as of February' [Baghdad Radio]	59
Opposition Forces Claim To Kill 8 Soldiers [Tehran Radio]	60

ISRAEL

IDF Closely Following Developments in Gulf	61
Says Chances of Missile Attack 'Low' [Tel Aviv Radio]	61
Arab Democratic Party Condemns Attacks Against Iraq [Tel Aviv Radio]	61
Rabin Visit to U.S. Said Tied to Proposal on Peace Process [HA'ARETZ 19 Jan]	61
Rabin Tells Cheney Danger of War With Iraq 'Declined' [Tel Aviv Radio]	62
Chief of Staff on Cooperation With U.S., Iraq, Deportees [Jerusalem Radio]	62
Peres Says Saddam 'Must Become More Settled' [Jerusalem Radio]	62
Peres Discusses Deportees, Syria, Arms Control [Tel Aviv TV]	62
Egypt's Foreign Minister Musa Arrives for Visit 17 Jan [Jerusalem Radio]	64
Peres Remarks on Deportees [Tel Aviv Radio]	64
Musa Extends Visit [Tel Aviv Radio]	65
Comments on Deportees [Jerusalem TV]	65
Concludes Visit [Jerusalem TV]	66

JORDAN

King Expresses 'Bitterness, Sadness' Over Raids [Amman TV]	67
Prince Hasan Views Justification for Raid [Amman TV]	68
Foreign Minister Reacts to Iraqi Raid [Amman Radio]	69
Lower House Deputies React to U.S. Raids [JORDAN TIMES 18 Jan]	69
House Condemns 'Continued Aggression' [Amman TV]	69
PETRA Political Editor Criticizes Aggression [PETRA-JNA]	70
Paper Criticizes 'Barbaric Aggression' [SAWT AL-SHA'B 18 Jan]	70
Paper Sees Application of 'Undue Force' [AL-DUSTUR 19 Jan]	71
King Leaves on Visit to Oman [Amman Radio]	71
Paper Views Visit [SAWT AL-SHA'B 17 Jan]	71

LEBANON

Army Reinforces Checkpoints To Prevent New Israeli Crossing [Beirut Radio]	73
Refuses To Open Road to Civilians [VOM]	73
Deportees Start 'Symbolic' Procession Toward Border 17 Jan [VOL]	73
Spokesman Says 'Severe Steps' Ahead [Voice of the Oppressed]	73

Buwayz Comments on Planned Visit to Tehran, Iraq, Deportees [VOL]	73
Departs for Tehran [Beirut Radio]	74
Fadlallah Accuses U.S. of Partitioning Iraq [Voice of the Oppressed]	74

SYRIA

Turkish Prime Minister Arrives, Meets al-Asad [Damascus Radio]	75
Media Comment on Iraq, 'Double Standard'	75
TISHRIN Editorial [Damascus Radio]	75
Radio Commentary [Damascus Radio]	75
Al-Shar' Returns From Italy Visit 19 Jan [SANA]	76

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Reportage on Missile Attacks on Kabul 15-18 Jan	77
UN Office, Presidential Palace Hit [Tehran Radio]	77
Several Killed 16 Jan [Tehran TV]	77
Kabul Again Under Attack 17 Jan [Tehran Radio]	77
Kabul Attacked 18 Jan [Kabul Radio]	77
Prisoner Release Announced; Talks Held in Pakistan [Tehran Radio]	77
Government Forces Attack Hekmatyar Positions [Tehran Radio]	78
Hezb-e Eslami Says Government Attack Fails [Radio Message of Freedom]	78
Hezb-e Eslami Demands Resignation of Government [Radio Message of Freedom]	78
Spokesman on Efforts To Form New Government [Kabul Radio]	79

Bangladesh

Country Expresses 'Deep Concern' at Gulf Situation [Dhaka Radio]	79
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India

Council of Ministers Resigns for Cabinet Reshuffle [AFP]	79
Party Leaders React to Resignations [Delhi Radio]	79
New Members Announced; Parties React [Delhi Radio]	80
Additional Portfolios Announced [Delhi Radio]	80
Commentary Views Cabinet Reshuffle [Delhi Radio]	81
Rao Announces Economic Assistance Package for Bombay [Delhi Radio]	81
Riots in Gujarat, Bombay Claim 15 Lives [Delhi Radio]	82
'Marked Improvement' in Bombay Shown 16 Jan [Delhi Radio]	82
Inquiry Into Riot Ordered [Delhi Radio]	82
Janata Dal Leader Singh Begins Fast 15 Jan [Delhi Radio]	83
Health Deteriorates [Delhi Radio]	83
Sri Lankan Tamil Guerrilla Captured in Madras [AFP]	83
Defense Ministry on Incident [Delhi Radio]	83

Iran

Officials, Media Comment on Iraqi Raids	84
Musavi-Ardabili Sermon [Tehran Radio]	84
Velayati Remarks [Tehran TV]	86
Larijani Comments [IRNA]	86
Commentary on U.S. Message [Tehran Radio]	87
Dailies Denounce Strikes [IRNA]	87
Press Reaction [IRNA]	88
Commentary on War Anniversary [Tehran Radio]	89
Attack on Factory [Tehran Radio]	90
Press on 'Cat and Mouse' Game [IRNA]	90
Double Standards in New World Order [Tehran TV]	91
Daily Says UN 'Tool' [IRNA]	92

Georgia's Shevardnadze Arrives on Official Visit [IRNA]	92
Meeting With Rafsanjani [Tehran Radio]	92
Lebanon's Nabih Birri Arrives in Tehran [Tehran Radio]	93
ICO Action Urged on Bosnia in Wake of Expired Deadline [Tehran Radio]	93

Pakistan

Indian Consulate Agrees To Send Home 44 Diplomats [THE MUSLIM 14 Jan]	94
Minister: 'Great Concern' Over Iraq Attack [THE NEWS 16 Jan]	94
Police Foil Attempt To Stage Pro-Iraq Rally [AFP]	94
Spokesman Urges 'Equitable' UN Resolution Promotion [Islamabad TV]	94
U.S. Punishment of Iraq 'Obviously Overdone' [THE NATION 15 Jan]	94
Sharif Seeks Cooperation in National Affairs [Islamabad TV]	95
Bhutto Denies Secret Agreement With Government [Islamabad Radio]	96
Afghans Reportedly Accept Delegation's Peace Offer [THE MUSLIM 18 Jan]	96
Relations With U.S. Said at 'Rock Bottom' [THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 17 Jan]	96

Sri Lanka

Tamil Tiger Guerrillas Announce Death of Leader [AFP]	97
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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Regrets Military Escalation Against Iraq

NC1801123093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1144 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat has expressed regret that a policy of military escalation is being used against Iraq, an Arab League member state, a policy that goes as far as to bomb civilian Iraqi installations inside Baghdad, killing and wounding fraternal Iraqi civilians.

In a statement issued at noon today, the Secretariat said it rejects the principle of force to settle disputes among countries, adding that the Secretariat calls for the need to observe self-restraint and to use the language of dialogue to tackle every issue through the Security Council—the international body entrusted with such a mission. The statement added that the Arab League General Secretariat calls on Iraq to swiftly withdraw all Iraqi police personnel from inside Kuwaiti territory and to respect the sovereignty and independence of the State of Kuwait, a member of the Arab League and the UN.

The statement added that the Secretariat once again stresses its extreme interest in the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and calls on the world community, as represented by the United Nations, not to apply double standards when implementing the resolutions of international legality, so as not to cause loss of confidence in or negative reactions by the Arab and wider public to the credibility of international law.

Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's delegate to the Arab League, said he sent a message to the Arab League secretary general about the recent aggressions against Iraq.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments

NC1801220593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has urged all parties concerned with the situation in Iraq to resort to dialogue instead of escalating the confrontation there.

Commenting on the new military operations between Iraq and the three Western countries, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid announced that all parties must commit themselves to implementing UN Security Council resolutions and not use a double standard when doing so.

He stated that the issue of the Palestinian deportees must be the focus of attention until UN Security Council Resolution 799, calling for their return, is implemented.

Arab League Welcomes Somali Agreement, Urges Cooperation

NC1701153393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] The Arab League has welcomed the final agreement signed recently by the leaders of the Somali factions. In a statement today, the Arab League said it is perfectly willing to cooperate with all Somali parties, the United Nations, and other organizations concerned with the Somali crisis to hold the next conference on Somali national reconciliation on solid foundations that will enable the Somali people to establish peace and stability in their country.

The Arab League urged Somali leaders to be cooperative so that these Somali-regional-international efforts might succeed.

Islamic Affairs

World Islamic Conference Held in Baghdad 16-18 Jan

Conference Opens; Ibrahim Speaks

JN1601122593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—Proceedings of the three-day sixth World Islamic Conference began here today. The conference is attended by 1,000 ulamas, clergymen, parliamentarians, intellectuals, and leaders of parties, organizations, and agencies from 51 Arab and Islamic states. The participants will work on formulating an action plan on the Arab, Islamic, and world levels to unify the resources of the Muslim masses in an expression of their principled, genuine position that supports Iraq and rejects aggression and injustice.

'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council member and President Saddam Husayn's representative, delivered a speech in which he conveyed the president's greetings and wishes of a successful conference to the participants.

Ibrahim said: I salute and greet the guests of Baghdad for their chivalry and faith. Each year, they come from afar to the field of the battle, which the Iraqi people are still fighting, to express support for them.

He said he was confident this conference was where the virtuous people of the Muslim world would meet on the basis of constant jihad to repel the crime of the age and its serious consequences, not only against Iraq, but also against all Muslim countries, both inside and outside the Arab world, as well as the peoples aspiring for freedom and independence.

Session Held at al-Rashid Hotel

JN1801122593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] The sixth World Popular Islamic Conference this morning held its fourth meeting at the al-Zawra' Hall in the al-Rashid Hotel which last night was hit by a treacherous American-Zionist missile calculated to silence the roaring voice of millions of Muslims around the world.

'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, gave a speech at the session, chaired by Muhammad Abu-al-Futuh of the Egyptian Labor Party, in which he said that, together with Muslim delegates attending the conference, steadfast Baghdad last night experienced a night of Islamic jihad and patience against the new American-Zionist aggression. The abhorrent crime committed by the criminal Bush on his death bed with his aides and henchmen, the devil's allies, illustrated their grudge against Islam and Muslims. The crashing of a treacherous missile on Muslims who had converged from all corners of the world representing the free will and the popular force backing the Islamic right is a failed bid to weaken their jihad stand alongside the Muslim people of Iraq and its mujahid leadership as they stand up valiantly to the enemies of the Islamic nation.

The minister stated that the treacherous Zionist missile will fail to break the will of the nation or the resolve of the leaders of the Muhammadan message to hold out and stick to the principles which they were meeting to promote.

Conference Final Statement

JN1901101693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Participants in the Sixth World Popular Islamic Conference have said that, represented by their popular leaderships, the Islamic peoples stand alongside the heroic Iraqi people and their mujahid leaders. They stated that they will not stand for the nations of aggression and of infidels to strip Iraq of its weapons or weaken its mujahid armed forces, which are a source of strength to Islam.

In a statement it issued at the end of its final session this evening, the conference condemned the barbaric American aggression on Iraq and the criminal and suspect bids led by the United States and its vicious allies of treasonous elements among Arabs and Muslims to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and security and split up its people and territory. The statement underlined the importance of preserving the unity of the people of Iraq and the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Defending Iraq, the statement added, is a sacred Islamic obligation that must be honored inasmuch as Iraq is a stronghold of Islamic jihad targeted by the infidel powers.

It called on the Islamic nation, its governments, the Arab League, and all Islamic organizations to condemn the

treacherous U.S. aggression against Iraq. The statement called for deploying all available means of resistance against the aggression, since it constitutes a threat to pan-Arab security and to the individual security of each Arab and Muslim state, a rude violation of the UN Charter, and an insolent interference in the internal affairs of a founding member of the organization.

The statement vigorously condemned the resolutions that the aggressor Americans, the Western imperialists, and the criminal Zionists had the UN Security Council pass against Iraq. The statement cited the economic blockade against mujahid Iraq banning its exports and trading with it, detaining its funds overseas, and preventing it from securing the food, milk, and medicine for its people.

The statement condemned the submission to and compliance with these unjust resolutions by certain Arab and Muslim regimes, especially those in the neighborhood of Iraq, thereby furthering the interests of the infidels and consolidating their control over the interests of Muslims, thus acting contrary to the teachings of true religion and the provisions of its law and the wishes of their Arab and Muslim peoples.

The statement urged all Islamic states, especially Iraq's neighbors, to break the iniquitous embargo and to unfreeze Iraqi funds in their banks, so as to make it possible for Iraq to purchase food, medicines, and other staples. It called on Islamic parties, organizations, and societies and outstanding Muslim scholars to put maximum pressure on their respective governments and decisionmakers in the interest of noncompliance with this blockade by engaging in trade with Iraq and resuming the work of joint committees between Iraq and other Arab states to achieve economic cooperation and secure the basic needs of the Iraqi people.

The statement affirmed the conferees' support for the jihad being waged by the Palestinian people and their blessed revolution. The conferees also asserted their backing for their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state on their national soil, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, away from terrorism, domination, the policies of capitulation, financial or moral blackmail. The conferees also affirmed their firm opposition to the suspect liquidation and settlement plans which the United States and Zionism seek to impose on the Palestinian people.

The statement urged all Muslims to shoulder their responsibilities toward Palestine and not to remain content with the passive expressions of support and the declaration of stands. It urged the mobilization of Muslim peoples for jihad to promote the cause of God in order to liberate Palestine, the holy lands. The statement also urged disregarding the regimes that are obstructing the achievement of this objective.

The statement condemned the stand taken by the sixth Islamic conference in Dakar, which dropped the Islamic

duty of jihad from its statements, recommendations, and deliberations, thus encroaching upon an Islamic and religious duty.

In their final statement, the Muslim conferees urged the Iranian Government to establish ties of good neighborliness with Iraq and to resolve the problem pertaining to thousands of Iraqi prisoners of war by releasing them, since their continued detention results in continued repression, not to mention that this is in violation of their religious and humanitarian rights. The conferees also urged Iran to return aircraft to Iraq.

The conferees categorically rejected the efforts being made by the United States and its allies to set up a new world order based on terrorism, intimidation, and the imposition of custodianship on world peoples and states; on robbing peoples of their free will; and on controlling their wealth and resources. The conferees affirmed that this order is, first and foremost, a means to oppress the Muslim peoples.

The statement denounced the criminal acts being perpetrated by the tyrannical Kuwaiti rulers against Palestinians, Jordanians, Sudanese, and Iraqis. It also condemned the measures taken against thousands of Yemenis and other Muslims by the Saudi regime.

The statement called for supporting and backing the ulema of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] in their firm opposition to the rulers imposed on the country and people by force.

The conferees also expressed their pride in the Islamic and nationalist policy being pursued by the government of fraternal Sudan, affirming their concern for the territorial integrity of Sudan. They also blessed the jihad of Muslims in Afghanistan and affirmed their support for the Muslim and Arab Somali people against the U.S. invasion troops.

Furthermore, the conferees denounced the savage massacres and the physical liquidation campaigns being carried out against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as the sinful aggression on the Babri mosque in India.

Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals, delivered a speech at the final session of the conference, reviewing the creative effort made by the zealous Iraqis to rebuild what was destroyed during the treacherous 30-state aggression. He indicated that the chaste blood shed at the al-Rashid Hotel as a result of the treacherous U.S. aggression will remain a stigma disgracing the enemies.

The conferees, leaders of Islamic thought and leaders of Islamic organizations, parties, and societies in the Arab homeland and the world at large representing 51 world states, debated, over three days, the dangers, threats, and challenges posed to the Islamic nation as well as the means of tackling and confronting them in light of the Koranic verse "Those who believe fight in the cause of

God, and those who reject faith fight in the cause of evil. So fight ye against the friends of Satan; feeble indeed is the cunning of Satan."

The six sessions of the conference were attended by 'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas, minister of awqaf and religious affairs.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Condemns 'Repeated Aggression' Against Iraq

LD1801190793 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] An official spokesman for the PLO has made the following statement:

For the second day running the Western alliance forces have bombed Iraqi towns and vital installations under the pretext of carrying out UN resolutions, in an attempt to prevent Iraq from fully exercising its sovereignty on its territory.

We in the PLO condemn this repeated aggression against the Iraqi capital Baghdad and the other Iraqi towns, which shows the rancor of U.S. President Bush against the free Arab nation, without any UN cover, at a time when the U.S. Administration and President Bush are obstructing the execution of UN resolutions concerning Israel which is violating all international standards against the masses of our Palestinian people, the latest of which was Resolution 799 pertaining to the Palestinian deportees.

Iraq stands today in a confrontation with vicious forces which have proved beyond doubt that they are engaged in harming its unity and sovereignty over its territory.

Appeal to 'Arafat

JN1801203293 *Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic* 1800
GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar, Yasir 'Arafat, today received a number of cables from trade union, women's, and peasants' organizations in Iraq, appealing to him to confront the aggressive U.S. intentions toward fraternal Iraq. The cables stressed that the recent aggression, and the warning which was issued before the treacherous air aggression against Iraq, are not based on any resolution of international legitimacy which ignores Palestine and its just cause.

The cables reiterated the solidarity of the fraternal Iraqi trade unions and organizations with the Palestinian people's just struggle until the liberation of Palestine from the Zionist occupiers, under the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Fatah Meeting Reviews Current Issues

LD1801200593 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The Revolutionary Council of the Fatah Movement yesterday concluded the ninth session of its meetings which it started on 15 January under the leadership of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The discussion concentrated on the movement's internal situation. The council concluded by adopting a decision stipulating that the Executive Committee must carry out a positive and immediate review, implement the decisions, and do more work for strengthening the movement's internal unity.

The Central Committee's report touched on the Israeli measures which accompanied the deportees' case, and which have proved the nonexistence of genuine differences between the goals of the previous and current Israeli governments. The council's discussions affirmed that this deportation operation has created more obstacles in the face of the talks process and made it impossible to resume them.

The council also studied means for consolidating and supporting our people's steadfastness. The council saw the keys to this support, and its continuation, in the national struggle and in consolidating national unity, in particular within the framework of resisting the occupation by all means, escalating the blessed intifadah, and revitalizing its methods.

The council also reviewed with a positive spirit and satisfaction the meetings with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], both the meeting which took place in Tunisia within the framework of the Palestinian leadership of the organization, and the meeting which took place in the Sudan between Hamas and our Fatah Movement under the auspices of the brother president leader Abu-'Ammar and Professor Dr Hasan al-Turabi. The council viewed the results of these meetings with satisfaction.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council renewed the request to the cosponsors of the peace talks process to deal with the obstacles which prevent progress on the path of peace, and to put pressure on the government of the Zionist entity. It also requested that the new U.S. Administration work toward the application of the human rights principle for our people, and restore the dialogue with the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of our people. It also called for the continuation of efforts to modify the formula of the Palestinian representation in the bilateral and multilateral talks.

The Revolutionary Council condemned the unjust aggression against fraternal Iraq and the air raids which the American and alliance planes launched against the fraternal people of Iraq.

The council also stressed its appreciation of the stance of Lebanon and its people, and the response of the fraternal Lebanese Government not to allow the brothers to be deported to its territories.

The Revolutionary Council also assessed the atmosphere of openness which has started to appear, especially through the visit of the Fatah Movement's delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and also the PLO delegation's visit to sisterly Oman and Qatar.

The Revolutionary Council renewed its emphasis on the necessity for Palestinian national unity within the PLO frameworks.

The Revolutionary Council also stressed the necessity of implementing UN Resolution 799, and suspending participation in the talks until the deportees' return home.

The Revolutionary Council addressed a greeting to the deportees' steadfastness, and to our people in the occupied homeland.

Qaddumi Criticizes Arab League Statement on Deportees

NC1701155493 *Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic* 1406 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—ROSE AL-YUSUF publishes the following report in its issue for tomorrow:

Despite the Arab and international efforts made and being made to convince the Israeli Government to rescind the decision to deport 400 Palestinian citizens, the final statement issued by the extraordinary session of the Arab foreign ministers was a disappointment for many Palestinian organizations and the deportees themselves.

As Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Palestinian delegation [to the foreign ministers meeting and PLO Political Department director], pointed out in a statement to ROSE AL-YUSUF, the statement did not set a time limit of three days to compel Israel to retreat from its intransigence on the issue of the deportees' return to their homes. Qaddumi added that the Arab League secretary general was supposed to present this proposal to the Security Council, together with the Palestinians' decision not to participate in the peace negotiations as long as the deportees remain outside their homeland, so that the United Nations can exercise its authority by implementing the Security Council resolutions and issue a resolution imposing sanctions against Israel so that the Arab peoples will not query the criteria that governs UN actions.

Qaddumi said that the final statement also did not discuss the issue of Arab countries lifting the economic embargo imposed against Libya and Iraq to demonstrate their rejection of the UN stand.

On the other hand, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal said that the meeting at this level put its

trust in its chairman, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and in the Arab League secretary general to take the necessary measures for the deportees' return. He added that pan-Arab security as a whole is now at risk.

Fatah Aide Rejects Deportees' Transfer to Third Country

NC1801184793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1731 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah's representative in Cairo, has declared that the Palestinians reject the deportees' transfer to a third country. He said the only solution to the issue is their peaceful return to their homeland as soon as possible.

Israeli sources earlier had referred to ongoing contacts with several countries including France and Algeria to host the deportees for a limited period.

Al-Qidrah told MENA that accepting such an Israeli proposal would signify a violation of all international charters on human rights, which condemn the deportations.

Fatah's Cairo representative urged UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali to be prompt in submitting his report on Israel's nonadherence to UN Security Council Resolution 799, preparatory to adopting practical deterrent measures against it. He pointed out that Israel is trying to equivocate and waste time in order to impose a fait accompli and transform the issue from a political into a merely humanitarian one connected with the supply of food and medicine.

Zuhdi al-Qidrah remarked that the UN handling of the deportees issue represents a new test for this international institution. He added that the entire world is waiting to see if the United Nations will implement its legal resolutions in Israel's case or comply with U.S. wishes and use a double standard in dealing with the world and its issues.

Al-Qidrah asserted that the way the issue is dealt with will test the UN prestige in the world.

Urges U.S. To Restore Dialogue

NC1901082593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0708 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—Fatah's representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has asked the new U.S. Administration, which will assume its duties tomorrow, Wednesday, to apply human rights charters on the Palestinian people without discrimination and to realize these people's political and national rights in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In a statement to MENA, Zuhdi al-Qidrah asked new U.S. President Bill Clinton to restore dialogue with the PLO because it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He also asked him to commit the

Israeli Government to the requirements of peace, primarily withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, in particular Jerusalem, and to stopping Israeli settlement building, Palestinian deportations, continuing crimes against the Palestinians, and the desecration of Christian and Islamic holy places, if the United States truly wants peace in the region.

In his statement, Fatah's representative in Cairo said we want the United States to implement international legitimacy by applying one standard, not double standards that favor Israel. He said the U.S. Administration now has a very important and urgent issue before it—the return of the Palestinian deportees to their families and their homeland in line with Security Council Resolution 799 and working to compel Israel to implement this resolution immediately.

Al-Qidrah said the world is waiting to see what the United States will do about Israeli practices and the violation of international laws, charters, and resolutions.

He said the Palestinians reject moving the deportees to any place other than their homeland.

'Arafat Seeks Egyptian Brotherhood's Mediation With Hamas

NC1701152893 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1404 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF publishes the following report, which will appear in its 18 January issue:

ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that during his recent meetings in Cairo, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat met with Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Narr, guide of the [Muslim] Brotherhood—a banned group.

The purpose of the meeting, which was not announced, was to attempt to bridge the gap between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and for the Muslim Brotherhood guide to persuade Hamas leaders to abandon their hardline stance on the peace process.

We recall that Fatah and Hamas leaders met in Khartoum last week to try to bring their views closer together. President 'Arafat attended that meeting.

'Ashrawi on Iraq Crisis, Ben-El-Mechaie's Assertion

TA1501133593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Jan 93 p 15

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Commenting on the renewed crisis in Iraq, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said: "It is ironic that UN Security Council resolutions are enforced on one country by force, whereas another country in the same region which violates similar resolutions is treated 'with kid gloves.'"

She said the Palestinians hope events in the Persian Gulf will soon be over, because they divert international attention from the question of the deportees and the negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel.

Dr. 'Ashrawi denied Construction Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer's assertion that two members of the Palestinian delegation had called him after the deportations to congratulate him. According to her, all the delegation members and the entire Palestinian leadership were astonished by the deportations and unanimously condemned them. [passage omitted]

Amman Paper Claims PFLP-GC's Jibril Suffered Thrombosis

JN1501124993 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 14 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Damascus—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], suffered an acute thrombosis and was moved to a Damascus hospital. Medical reports indicated that the thrombosis was acute and left Jibril unconscious. However, sources say that he is recovering and has already left the hospital for his home in Damascus.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' also learned that the PFLP-GC rank and file are watching with concern their leader's health, and that Talal Naji is now assuming Ahmad Jibril's duties.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' further learned that the possibility of transferring Ahmad Jibril to a hospital abroad is being considered, but no decision has yet been made.

We wish the Palestinian leader a speedy recovery.

Jibril in 'Good Health'

JN1801070093 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] The enemy radio announced, during its newscast at 1330 today, that Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], suffered thrombosis and, as a result of this, became unconscious. An official spokesman for the PFLP-GC made the following statement to our radio:

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril is enjoying good health. He has completed medical checkups, which he underwent in the wake of his recent illness, and is now resuming his duties and continuing his struggle and jihad.

Islamic Jihad Spokesman Comments on Tel Aviv Attack

NC1501172693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, spokesman for the Islamic Jihad movement in the Palestinian deportees camp in Lebanon, commented on the incident in Tel Aviv this morning in which a number of Israelis were wounded and their attacker, Fakhri al-Dahduh of Islamic Jihad, was killed. He said: We absolutely do not accept the killing of civilians. He added, however, that when all other methods are exhausted and there is no other way to pressure the enemy and make it suffer the way we suffer, then we have to kill these people to give them a taste of the pain we are experiencing and to deter them from their injustice, oppression, and tyranny against our Palestinian people.

Retaliation for Deportations

NC1501182193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Islamic Jihad in Palestine today emphasized that the stabbing carried out by one of its members in Tel Aviv today came in retaliation for the deportation crime.

In a statement distributed by the organization in Beirut, Islamic Jihad in Palestine stressed that the person who carried out the operation is Fakhri Dahduh. He was killed by an Israeli civilian after having stabbed four passers-by. Israeli police sources have pointed out that an Islamic Jihad leaflet was found with the assailant.

Two Wounded in Explosions in 'Ayn al-Hulwah 17 Jan

NC1801072493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Two people were wounded last night in 'Ayn al-Hulwah when three explosive charges went off near an office of dissidents from Fatah-the Revolutionary Council. Afterward two rockets were fired. At 2100 yesterday, an explosive charge went off near a Fatah Movement official's house.

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Urges Restraint in Gulf

LD1801204393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry official spokesman has issued a statement which says:

The fresh raids against Iraq, which included the country's capital, causing material and human losses, might lead to an escalation of tension, a matter which has consolidated the concern which Algeria expressed recently to representatives of the UN Security Council's permanent members. Moreover, resorting to the use of force cannot constitute a suitable means for resolving disputes and crises, however large or small they may be.

Algeria expresses its sympathy with the Iraqi fraternal people at this stage, given the imposed ordeal and plight facing it, and calls for restraint and dialogue instead of confrontation, within the framework of strict respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in the Gulf region. Moreover, Algeria reiterates the need for the respect of international legality by anyone, anywhere, at any time, a price which must be paid in order to bring about justice, peace, stability, and security in the region and throughout the world.

Council To Implement 1993 Political Program

LD1701230393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] In a communique issued following its meeting today, the Higher State Council stressed that it will go ahead with its political program for 1993 in accordance with the contents of the speech delivered by Council Chairman Ali Kafi last Thursday [14 January].

The council also analysed the political situation in the country following Mr. Ali Kafi's speech. At the same meeting, Mr. Khaled Nezzar, member of the High State Council and defense minister, gave a presentation on his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which constituted a positive contribution to building understanding and boosting relations between the two countries.

Minister Voices Doubts on Chemical Weapons Ban

LD1501112793 Algiers APS in English 1021 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Algiers, Jan 16 (APS)—More than one hundred countries including Algeria signed the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons on the occasion of the second day of the conference held in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris and which ended Friday [15 January].

About fifty delegates representing countries that signed the treaty, took the floor and expressed satisfaction about "the historical importance", "the best landmark" which defines this agreement in the field of chemical

disarmament, negotiated in a multilateral frame and providing for a system of control and verification qualified as "revolutionary".

Speaking on this occasion, the Algerian foreign minister, Lakhdar Brahimi, who chaired the Algerian delegation, after observing that Algeria "has brought its modest contribution in the elaboration of the convention" and that its "shares the opinion of delegations on the historical importance" of this treaty, expressed the hope to see the latter "give a major qualitative impulse" on the way of a global disarmament realizing thus "an authentic universal work assuming the same rights and imposing the same obligations and guaranteeing an equal security for all".

"Algeria also hopes that commitments of the convention in the field of cooperation and aid to developing countries will not remain vain promises", the minister underlined before dealing, in relation with this treaty, [with] the "fears" and "doubts" expressed by the Arab countries at the Paris conference in 1989 and the 47th session of the UN General Assembly.

"No one can ignore or neglect that in the Middle-East, he said, one country alone has an arsenal of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and that this country has adhered to no international treaty and persists in its refusal to submit its installations to any international control. This is a situation which the Arab countries can neither tolerate nor accept".

Noting that Arab countries be them present in the Paris conference or not, "are unanimously demand that at the level of their area the question of mass destruction weapons be the subject of a global approach", Lakhdar Brahimi expressed in conclusion the "firm and unequivocal support of Algeria to the constant position of the Arab countries and to the resolution of the Arab League (of September 1992) advocating a general disarmament in the Middle-East. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Press Condemns Moroccan King's Remarks on Elections

LD1801152693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] In a sudden move, Moroccan King Hassan II revealed in a press interview that he had hoped that the electoral process in Algeria had not stopped, because he wondered what the results would have been. The national press, like other newspapers, found this strange and focused today on this declared attitude by the Moroccan king.

LE JOURNAL, for instance, wondered what prevents King Hassan II from trying the phenomenon in his country if he has all this scientific curiosity. While the paper saw in the Moroccan king's statement a grave shortcoming in diplomatic sensitivity, rather insolent

conduct to a great extent, it could not see that what had happened in Algeria could not happen in Morocco.

EL-WATAN considered the statement an intentional provocation against Algeria, and recalled that for lesser reasons Algeria had recalled its ambassadors to Paris and Tehran. The paper went on to say that the king's hatred for Algeria is already known to us, despite the diplomatic talk. But for the king to declare openly that he had wished to see Algeria in fire and blood only to satisfy his curiosity is a grave escalation.

ALGER REPUBLICAIN chose to dig deeper on the issue and went back to point out that when the Islamic current was most active, some observers said that the Moroccan regime hoped for a FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] victory, not from the premise of Islamic fraternity, but in order to see Algeria collapsing. It was also said, according to the newspaper, that Morocco had formed bases in the rear for the Islamic extremists.

LIBERTE drew attention to the fact that the statement by the Moroccan king came at a time when the Algerian regime began to have more control of the situation and Algeria had begun to prepare to recover its prominent and known status in the regional and international arenas. LIBERTE said that Hassan II does not view with satisfaction the current rapprochement among Algeria, France, and Saudi Arabia. The paper's conclusion is that the Moroccan king wished Algeria to collapse in order to occupy its place in the international arena.

This analysis was shared by almost all the press: In brief, King Hassan II wished that he had gained the position of sole regional power, which decides on behalf of the Arab Maghreb Union in the regional, Arab, and international arenas.

TV Commentary

LD1801224393 *Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] In a recent interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, King Hassan II expressed his wish that the fundamentalists should have been allowed to gain power in Algeria in order that their contradictions would become apparent, as he put it. Nevertheless, the commander of the faithful [King Hassan], who wanted to make our country a laboratory for his experiments, was mistaken; it would have been a far better idea for him to try to carry out such experiments in his kingdom's laboratory instead of interfering in our country's internal affairs.

Such statements, made at a time when Algeria has begun to regain its prestige and place at the internal and external levels, are not innocent and do not serve the Maghreb peoples' aspiration for progress, development, and unity. Our people have repeatedly proved their ability to overcome crises and difficulties as well as

their unwillingness to accept patronage from any party, particularly from a party which has been suppressing peoples' aspirations for freedom and self-determination.

Nonetheless, this is not the first time that we have reached the conclusion that his majesty does not want any good for Algeria and that he is always there with such statements in order to hamper Algeria's own efforts to stand up. Furthermore, notwithstanding the erroneous nature of the statements, they will never dissuade Algeria's sincere sons from carrying through their resolve to regain the country's natural place in the Arab and African worlds as well as in the Third World in general.

Egypt

Aerial Attack Against Iraq Draws Reaction

Iraq Said Advised on Resolutions

NC1801172393 *Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Jan 93 pp 1, 2*

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi Sattar]

[Text] Egyptian diplomatic sources have affirmed that Egypt has often advised Iraq through countries that maintain good relations with Baghdad to abide by Security Council resolutions to safeguard the safety of the Iraqi people and territory. The sources said that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told Iraqi counterpart Muhammad Sa'd al-Sahhaf on the sidelines of the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo last week that Iraq must cease any actions that are bound to exacerbate regional tension.

Iraqi opposition figures in Cairo have voiced their profound denunciation of the aerial attack on Iraq. Opposition leader 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Alwaji said that a number of Iraqi figures will meet in Cairo 17 January to study all aspects of the situation.

It should be mentioned that Iraqi opposition members residing in Iran, Syria, and Egypt have not yet issued any statement on the aerial strike against Iraq. The Iraqi opposition in London, however, has declared its complete support for the attack.

Position on Raid Against Iraq 'Unchanged'

NC1801110493 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1035 GMT 18 Jan 93*

[Excerpts] A short while ago, Western coalition aircraft launched a third strike against Iraqi nuclear targets because the Iraqi regime is procrastinating over implementing the international resolutions. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the third Western raid against Iraq, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the Egyptian position remains unchanged, because what interests Egypt and the entire Arab nation is avoiding the division of Iraq and safeguarding its territorial integrity and the unity of

its people. Musa said Egypt again calls for compliance with international law and expresses its interest in the safety of the Iraqi people and Iraq's territorial integrity. Musa added that Egypt calls for halting any policy marked by adventurism or agitation, because the situation is serious and delicate. The most important thing, he added, is to maintain the safety of the Iraqi people and its territorial integrity.

Parliamentary Committee Rejects Use of Force

NC1701180193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1636 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—The Consultative Council's Arab, Foreign Affairs, and National Security Committee has said that it rejects the use of military force against the Iraqi people as the only method of setting things right. At the same time, the committee called on the Iraqi regime to adhere to all UN Security Council and UN resolutions to prevent a new military strike against Iraqi installations and to protect the Iraqi people from harm.

The committee, meeting today under the chairmanship of Dr. Mufid Shihab, said that Egypt supports the Iraqi nation's unity and safety and opposes the country's partition. It urged the Iraqi leadership to abandon its old ideas of annexing Kuwait, noting that Saddam Husayn's continued talk about annexing Kuwait harms Iraq and subjects its people to new military strikes by the Western allies.

The committee called on the world community to impose on Israel and Serbia the same sanctions imposed on Iraq because of their refusal to implement Security Council resolutions calling for the return of the Palestinian deportees and establishing peace and stability in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

U.S. 'Aggression' Against Iraq Viewed

NC1801221493 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Jan 93 p 8

["Close-Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Against Whom Should the Strike Be Directed?"]

[Text] Despite all the talk about Saddam Husayn's stupidity, tyranny, ill treatment of the Iraqi people, and repeated provocations against Kuwait, every sincere Arab cannot but condemn the U.S. aggression—which enjoyed the support of Britain and France—against Iraq. All sincere Arabs cannot but express outrage at the three countries' abuse of their military power and their tampering with international legitimacy and the United Nations to attack Iraq.

Since the United States began warming up the front against Iraq and escalating the international situation against the Iraqi regime's infringements—which are nothing compared to Israel's acts against the Palestinians and Lebanon or to the Serbs' acts against Muslims in Bosnia—it has appeared that President Bush is determined to take revenge against Saddam Husayn and to

wage a military strike on Iraq as his last decision before he leaves the White House. It is as if he has turned the whole thing into a personal matter.

Bush has handled the crisis in a manner suggesting he was in a hurry to take military action by any means. This is a cause of regret and anger. The Iraqi regime did back down on deploying its missiles in the no-fly zone and it actually withdrew them, as the Americans themselves admitted. Concerning the operations carried out by civilian Iraqis across the border with Kuwait to retrieve weapons and missiles, it was proven that the infiltrated region was not inside Kuwait but in a demilitarized border zone under UN supervision. Moreover, the Iraqis only hours before the U.S. strike had undertaken not to repeat the violations.

We blame Saddam. His adventurism has turned him into an insolent tool with which to attack the Iraqi people, weaken the Arab world, and subjugate it to the domination of the United States and Israel. Certainly, however, the vindictive policies adopted by Bush and encouraged by Britain, France, and certain Arabs drive Saddam Husayn toward mad, unmeasured acts. All sanctions against Saddam are being paid for by the Iraqi people in the form of hunger, hardship, and isolation.

There is nothing to suggest that these policies—though harsh and painful—have helped overthrow Saddam or weaken his regime. Indeed, it would appear that the contrary is true and that the recent military strike will strengthen the rallying of the humiliated and isolated Iraqi people around him. These policies will also deepen the feelings of large Arab sectors that the United States and its allies are adopting biased positions, not only against Saddam's regime, but also against the entire Arab nation.

If Saddam has lost the confidence of the Arab world since his invasion of Kuwait, the United States is risking the loss of the remainder of the confidence it won after the liberation of Kuwait.

Libya's Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi Arrives for Visit

NC1701123393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Al-Sallum, 17 Jan (MENA)—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi arrived at the al-Sallum land border point this afternoon on a visit to Egypt scheduled to last several days.

Col. al-Qadhafi was received by Dr. 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research and head of the escort team; Kamal Mansur, Marsi Matruh governor; and Ambassador Mustafa al-Shadhili, head of the Egyptian-Libyan Relations Office in Tripoli.

Attends Rally in Matruh, Praises Mubarak

NC1701222493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2133 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Matruh, 17 Jan (MENA)—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi has said that "we are the only ones who appreciate the Egyptian people's sacrifice and struggle and their standing on the side of the Arab nation throughout the years. If others deny this sacrifice, the Libyan people cannot deny it at all because the 1 September revolution is an extension of the great July revolution. Egypt under the leadership of my brother Husni Mubarak is a secure and stable country. We appreciate his support for the Libyan people. We are dealing with the current situation and the international circumstances imposed on us in a quiet and sober manner."

At a public rally at Matruh Governorate premises tonight, Col. al-Qadhafi added that "although Egypt has emerged from long wars and a long Arab boycott, President Mubarak has been able to develop Egypt. He inspects economic development sites by himself and drives cars by himself to see every big and small thing."

Al-Qadhafi said that "we are one Arab nation. We have the same language, the same religion, and the same customs and traditions. Imperialism caused these divisions in the Arab nation to disperse and weaken it. We face danger as an Arab nation if we do not unite, because imperialism wants to divide us. We all stood against Iraq when it attacked Kuwait, and Iraq was compelled to get out of Kuwait."

Col. al-Qadhafi arrived at Marsa Matruh at 1715 today. He attended the public rally, which began at 1915 and ended at 2110. He also attended a poetry festival held in his honor at a bedouin tent in Marsa Matruh.

Arrives in Cairo, Talks With Mubarak

NC1801161993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi and accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this evening.

President Mubarak received Col. al-Qadhafi upon his arrival at the Presidential Palace in al-Qubbah.

The Libyan leader was accorded an official reception ceremony at the palace. The Libyan and Egyptian national anthems were played and the two leaders reviewed the honor guard. [passage omitted]

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1600 GMT on 18 January in another Cairo-dated report says: "President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi held a bilateral round of talks at al-Qubbah Presidential Palace this evening. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and regional and international developments."]

'Escalation' in Iraq Discussed

NC1801180593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1712 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, presidential press office chief, has said that President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi focused in their one-hour meeting in al-Qubbah Palace this evening on the escalating and sad situation in Iraq. They discussed all prospects of the developments in Iraq and the Gulf.

'Abd-al-Mun'im told journalists that the two leaders also reviewed a number of current Arab, regional, and international issues.

Col. Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi and his delegation were scheduled to visit Alexandria today and arrive in Cairo tomorrow, but the Libyan leader decided to travel directly from Marsa Matruh to Cairo to meet with President Husni Mubarak after the escalation in Iraq.

Musa Denies Israeli Proposal To Host Deportees

NC1801124793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1136 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today denied reports of an Israeli proposal that several countries host Palestinian deportees. He said the reports are untrue.

Press reports yesterday spoke of an Israeli proposal to host the Palestinian deportees, with Egypt, the United States, and the International Committee of the Red Cross participating. Under the proposal, the deportees would be temporarily moved to other countries, including Egypt, Algeria, and France.

Musa Leaves for Israel for Talks 17 Jan

NC1701115493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1123 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this afternoon for Israel for a short visit, expected to last a few hours, to discuss the deportees.

Prior to his departure, Musa said that during the visit he will hand a message from President Husni Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He said talks with the Israeli prime minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will concentrate on a number of urgent issues that require direct contact, primarily the Palestinian deportees.

Musa discussed tomorrow's arrival of a UN secretary general envoy to Israel for the third time, saying that these contacts come within the framework of our goal, namely, the implementation of the Security Council resolution on the deportees' return.

Musa called the draft resolution calling for the application of Chapter Seven of the UN Charter to be applied to the situation in Bosnia important progress. Continuing

the current policy on Bosnia reveals a kind of leniency with the criminal operation taking place there, as well as with the theories of racial and ethnic cleansing in use there.

He said there is absolutely no way to justify dealing with Serbian aggression differently than we deal with any other aggression.

Peace Process, Deportees Discussed

NC1701191393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Israel this evening following a several-hour visit during which he met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. His excellency said his talks with them dealt with the peace process, the deportees issue, and the importance of remedying the situation and clearing the atmosphere surrounding the peace process to ensure its continuation. He said they agreed to maintain contacts and exchange ideas on these matters.

Musa said that he hopes that these issues will be resolved within an appropriate time frame in a way leading to progress. He said he also hopes the deportees issue will be placed on a sound track toward a solution as soon as possible.

His excellency stated that he will submit a full report on his visit to Israel and his talks with Rabin and Peres to President Husni Mubarak tonight.

Envoy to Israel Views 'Successful' Visit

NC1801090693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, in Tel Aviv, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, during the "Dialogue From Afar" program on 18 January—live or recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Ambassador, welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Basyuni] Thank you very much.

[Al-Jundi] What are the most significant results of the foreign minister's visit to Israel yesterday?

[Basyuni] Undoubtedly, the deportees' question has affected the peace talks. Egypt wants to find a swift solution to this problem so that the peace process can proceed and we can reach agreements that, once concluded, would mean no deportations or similar Israeli practices. Egypt is doing its utmost to solve this problem, which, undoubtedly, was the main topic discussed during the foreign minister's brief visit and during his talks with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Al-Jundi] In a statement before leaving Cairo for Tel Aviv, the foreign minister said Egypt welcomes the

resumption of the peace talks as soon as possible. Can we assume following the foreign minister's quick visit to Israel yesterday that the peace talks will soon resume?

[Basyuni] The main objective is to resume the peace process, but we must first clear the obstacles. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel sought to remove these obstacles, the deportations and the need to find a swift solution to this problem. Views were exchanged and ideas were advanced in a bid to solve this problem.

[Al-Jundi] Were any compromises advanced during the foreign minister's talks with the two Israeli officials?

[Basyuni] The problem has three dimensions: legal, humanitarian, and political. The legal aspect concerns the awaited verdict of the Israeli Supreme Court, which met 17 January and will meet again on 20 January to decide on the legality of the deportation order. Another legal point is that the deportees are entitled to appeal to the military appeal committees. We hope the Supreme Court will rule that the deportation order is illegal, thus securing the deportees' return. If the deportation order is backed by the Supreme Court, the deportees may appeal to the military appeal committees. We hope too that the committees will accept some of the appeals and that many deportees will return home as a result. As for the humanitarian aspect, there are sick and elderly people among the deportees and some were expelled by mistake. These people are supposed to go back home. The third aspect is political. We are not handling the issue from the legal and humanitarian aspects alone, but also from the political aspect. We reject deportation as a punishment, because it violates all international norms and laws. The deportees must return to their territory, families, and homes.

[Al-Jundi] Ambassador, could we say Egyptian activity to resolve the question of the Palestinian deportees is being carried out in coordination with the U.S. Administration, particularly with a new administration arriving at the White House in a few days?

[Basyuni] Egypt plays a pivotal and primary role in this. The role we are playing—and I know about it as far as Israel is concerned—is primary and pivotal. Undoubtedly, it is beneficial to coordinate with the United States in this respect.

[Al-Jundi] Ambassador Basyuni, allow me to talk about the double standard in applying international resolutions. Arab public opinion asks whether the provisions of UN Chapter Seven could be applied against Israel because it failed to honor a Security Council resolution. In other cases international resolutions are implemented by force. Let us discuss this with particular reference to the deportees' issue and in view of the Israeli intransigence.

[Basyuni] In principle, Security Council resolutions must be honored. As for any other measures the Security Council may adopt, let us wait and see what will happen. I hope Israel will respond to the resolution and try to solve this problem so that we can proceed with the peace process. The objective, as I have said, is to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in every aspect and not place obstacles or impediments here and there. There is a supreme

goal: to end the Israeli occupation and give Palestinians their right to self-determination. This cannot be achieved unless the negotiations continue. If we continue the negotiations, we will, God willing, achieve the goal.

[Al-Jundi] Ambassador, do you believe a solution of the deportees' problem needs more time and more efforts or did the foreign minister's visit to Israel yesterday do much to remove some of the obstacles to a solution?

[Basyuni] Musa's visit was positive and successful. Ideas were advanced and discussed to expedite a solution.

[Al-Jundi] We thank Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni with whom we have been talking on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Basyuni] Thank you very much.

Commentary Views Visit, Mideast 'Tension'

NC1801155893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari]

[Text] As has always been the case, Egypt's political leadership is making every political and diplomatic effort on all levels to maintain sufficient Arab solidarity to safeguard Arab interests in a rapidly changing world, so much so that no one can speculate what the situation in the next few months will be like. This is due to many factors and new developments, notably the change in the U.S. Administration. It is no exaggeration to say that this administration, backed by its European allies, is holding all keys to the world. If the current tension continues in the Middle East, no one can guess how the situation will develop, and there will be grave consequences that harm not only the peoples of the region, but perhaps the peoples of other regions, too. This definitely will affect international peace and security, which the new world order views as the basis for comprehensive world development and for acceptable solutions to regional conflicts.

Here, we would like to refer particularly to Israel's position on the Palestinian deportees. The Israeli act cast a gloomy shadow on the peace process, which still provides a unique chance for the Arabs and the Israelis to reach a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in a way that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people on the basis of a land-for-peace exchange.

We also would like to refer to developments in Iraq, especially the fact that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is still determined to continue his adventures, which only reap destruction, further suffering by the Iraqi people, and the distortion of the Arabs' image in the eyes of the world at a time when we urgently need world support for the Palestinian cause, which is our primary cause and indeed the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict. If this conflict is resolved, the region will live in peace and security and its people will devote their time and efforts to development and progress.

It is truly regrettable that Iraq's leader remains unprepared to absorb the lessons of the tragedies and disasters he has brought upon his own people in particular, and the peoples of the region in general. Iraq is being subjected to air raids by the allied forces thanks to the intransigence of Iraq's ruler and his noncompliance with international resolutions.

Realizing the potential consequences of the rising tensions in the region, Egypt is moving in all directions to contain these tensions and save the peace process. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa visited Israel to discuss with Israeli officials the way to end the tragedy of the Palestinian deportees, who recently have been fighting death amid severe conditions to the extent that they have held a symbolic march to protest their continued deportation. They appealed to President Mubarak to convince Israel to change its intransigent position toward them.

'Amr Musa's visit to Israel is a clear expression of Egypt's firm pan-Arab commitment to fateful Arab issues. There is much speculation that the visit will attain positive results, foremost of which would be the perception that the Israeli act is a flagrant violation of international law, the Geneva convention on occupied territories, and the most fundamental human rights.

Israel did not take into consideration the fact that the deportations will prompt increasing international sympathy with the deportees and focus world attention on the Palestine question. Israel's position has exposed its intentions, and it now is clear that Israel is in a predicament over the deportees. There are indications that the Rabin government in the next few weeks will try to improve its image in the eyes of the world public as the date of the Washington peace talks draws near. Otherwise, Israel will prove to the world once again that it is not seeking peace, and that all its claims in this regard are false.

The world community's commitment to international resolutions prompts Israel to think carefully of ways to get out of the deportees impasse, especially since there is an increasing inclination in the United Nations to impose sanctions against Israel if it fails to return the Palestinian deportees. If in the past years Israel has escaped deterrent world sanctions, there now are signs that this time it will not, especially since the international community is determined to make all states respect the resolutions of international legitimacy. Israel is no exception, and there is already a Security Council resolution providing for the return of the deportees. The UN secretary general's envoy will arrive in Israel tomorrow in another attempt to convince Israel to change its position, or else.

Musa Says Position on Hala'ib 'Unwavering,' Views Deportees

NC1601165793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egypt's position on Hala'ib is unwavering. Egypt, he added, is

examining the third memorandum that Sudan presented to the UN Security Council prior to answering the allegations contained in that memorandum.

Answering a question on Israel's decision to let six more Palestinian deportees return home and whether this would lead to a step-by-step return of the deportees, Musa said that Egypt welcomes any step leading to the return of all the deportees and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for the return of these deportees.

Thirty 'Extremists' Arrested for Attack on Tour Bus

NC1501142993 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Jan 93 p 12

[Report by 'Abd-al-Hamid Shu'ayr]

[Excerpt] In their extensive campaign to hunt fugitive terrorists in al-Jizah after the attack on a tour bus on the Pyramids road, al-Jizah police, state security, and public security services arrested 30 dangerous extremists. They were in possession of 10 incendiary devices, four jars of explosives, and swords, knives, and axes. They admitted preparing the material to carry out a series of attacks against policemen and security centers. [passage omitted]

Libya

Iraqi Raids Termed Violation of Pan-Arab Security

LD1801104793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0940 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Jan (JANA)—The General People's Committee for Unity has issued a statement concerning the aggression against Iraq. Here is the text of the statement:

In affirmation of the unity of pan-Arab security which derives its unity from the sovereignty of the Arab nation over the entire Arab homeland and which was embodied in the Charter of the Arab League to safeguard the freedom of the Arab countries and the inviolability of their territories and independence, the aggression against fraternal Iraq is viewed as a grave violation of pan-Arab security and the Arab nation cannot accept it in any form.

The Great Jamahiriya has affirmed its rejection of the aggression against fraternal Iraq and its rejection of the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. The continuation of the aggression against Iraq, whether with reason or without, constitutes a serious escalation of the tension in the area and a return of the old colonialism in new clothes. Differences over borders can never be solved between two Arab countries by the missiles of foreign states. Those who support the appropriation of the freedom of peoples today will have their own freedom appropriated tomorrow.

The provisions of the UN Charter guarantee the freedom and sovereignty of the peoples on their land and any violation of this freedom and sovereignty is a violation of the UN Charter and all the international conventions which have given the UN its credibility with the peoples of the world. Consequently, by remaining silent over the violation of the peoples' sovereignty, the violation of their freedom, the aggression against them, and the division of their territory and of the people, the United Nations loses its justification to exist as a world organization established by the will of the peoples of the world so that their freedom and sovereignty can be reinforced.

The United Nations is called upon to reject the aggression against the people of Iraq, the violation of their sovereignty, and the division of their territory and people. This would be in line with its Charter which prohibits aggression and the use of force or threat of force in international relations. The United Nations is also called upon to establish international relations which will safeguard the freedom of peoples and reinforce their will [as received] and sovereignty with a view to shaping international relations in a way that safeguards international peace and security.

Malta Meeting Issues Statement of Solidarity

LD1701190993 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text of "statement of solidarity with the Great Jamahiriya" issued at conclusion of Mediterranean regional conference for peace, democracy and cooperation in the Mediterranean basin on 17 January]

[Text] Valletta, 17 January (JANA)—Representatives of the peace, greens, and alternative movements, meeting in Malta from 15 to 17 January for the regional conference under the banner "Peace, Democracy, and Cooperation," should like to make the following recommendations after reviewing the situation concerning the imposing of the boycott against Libya and the conditions of the resolution of the Security Council on the boycott:

1. The boycott against Libya has caused a great deal of suffering for the Libyan people, and this boycott is considered as unjust and inhuman and should be stopped.
2. Security Council Resolutions 731 and 748 are in fact at variance with the UN Charter and therefore do not accord with international law.
3. The dispute between Libya and the Western countries should be resolved peacefully, without resorting to pressure or violence.
4. The participants express their solidarity with the Libyan people in these difficult and hard moments, and wish the Libyan people a future full of prosperity and peace.

Sudan

RCC Member Dismissed; Cabinet Reshuffled

EA1901110293 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, has issued a decree relieving Flight Brigadier Faysal Madani Mukhtar of his post as member of the RCC. Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and the Council of Ministers, also issued a number of important decrees in line with support for federal rule, and in accordance with what he announced to the Transitional Assembly on 11 January.

The decrees show the government's commitment to supporting institutions of federal rule so as to entrench the pillars of peace, release the energy of the states, and achieve proficiency in government institutions. The government began to implement its commitment by issuing the fourth constitutional enactment relating to the establishment of federal rule, and later by establishing a higher committee to supervise the application of federal rule. The committee is empowered to issue recommendations which define the division of the powers of the federal and state authorities as well as the institutions and structures arising thereof. The higher committee also defines the proper proportions in sharing out financial and human resources. This called for the reshuffling of some ministries. Here now are the details of the decrees.

A. Abolished ministries:

1. Ministry of Construction and Public Works and Utilities.
2. Ministry of Welfare and Social Development.
3. Ministry of Coordination of States' Affairs.

B. Established ministries:

1. Ministry of Labor and Administrative Reform.
2. Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment.

In accordance with this arrangement, the National Fund for Social Security and the National Pension Fund will revert to the Ministry of Labor and Administrative Reform; the religious tax, the tasks of the Social Welfare Agency, and the tasks of the agency of displaced persons will be transferred to the states' ministries of health. The tasks of the Solidarity Fund will be transferred to the states' ministries of finance while arrangements are being made to transfer its tasks to the Local Government Council. The tasks of the Public Corporation for Roads and Bridges will revert to the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Tourism. The Sudanese Company for Building and Construction will revert to the Land Bank.

The decrees also provide for the setting up of a Bureau for Federal Rule under the supervision of the head of state. They also provide for the reversion of the Agency for Economic Planning to the Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment.

The Cabinet reshuffle includes relieving the following ministers from their mentioned ministries:

Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, Interior Ministry;

Maj. Gen. Dominic Kassiano Bakhit, Ministry of Labor;

Naval Brigadier Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Tourism;

Flight Brig. Faysal Madani Mukhtar, Ministry of Health;

Dr. 'Abdallah Idris Muhammad, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General;

Mr. 'Uthman 'Abd al-Latif, Ministry of Construction, Public Works, and Utilities;

Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, Ministry of Welfare and Social Development;

Lt. Col. Galwak Deng [Garang], Ministry of Coordination of States' Affairs;

Dr. 'Uthman 'Abd al-Wahhab, Ministry of Energy and Mining;

The Cabinet reshuffle includes the appointment of the following to the ministerial posts mentioned:

Maj. Gen. Dominic Kassiano Bakhit, minister of labor and administrative reform;

Naval Brig. Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, minister of energy and mining;

Brig. Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, minister of interior;

Mr. 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu, minister of justice and attorney general;

Mr. 'Uthman 'Abd al-Qadir 'Abd al-Latif, minister of transport, communications, and tourism;

Lt. Col. Galwak Deng [Garang], minister of health;

Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad, minister of economic planning and investment.

Brotherhood Society Expresses Support for Iraq

EA1701210693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan (SUNA)—The Sudanese-Iraqi Brotherhood Society at the Council for International People's Friendship (CIPF) celebrated Sunday [17 January] the second anniversary of the Iraqi steadfastness

against the imperialist aggression. The Iraqi ambassador to Sudan, 'Abd al-Samad Hamid has addressed the celebrations, saying that the aggression against Iraq was not aimed at implementing the international legitimacy but it aimed at imposing the Western hegemony over the area and controlling energy sources. He added that the aggression also targeted the Iraqi Renaissance Project which had brought a state of equilibrium in the area.

Hamid said the political and economic campaign launched against Iraq emphasised that the plan of the aggression had already been prepared before the aggression, a matter that [was] proven by the military operations which targeted the basic infrastructure in the country. He further said that despite the removal of the justifications of the aggression, the blockade is still being imposed. He called on Arab and Islamic people to express their position by all means and to [word indistinct] the U.N. Security Council to uplift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

Representatives of a number of popular organisations also addressed the ceremony, declaring their siding with Iraq in the face of Arab nation's enemies.

Hamid and the Palestinian ambassador, Abu Raja'i, have opened the exhibition organised at CIPE to reflect the devastation caused by the aggression and the reconstruction process that followed it.

Meanwhile, Abu Raja'i addressed the occasion, hailing the Iraqi struggle against the Western (?alliance) forces.

Al-Bashir Receives al-Asad Message on Ties With Egypt

JN1601104493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation and prime minister, last night received Nasir Qaddur, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs. Qaddur conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to the Sudanese leader.

Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, minister of state at the Sudanese presidency and secretary general of the World Popular Friendship Council, and Muhammad al-Mahamid, Syria's ambassador to Sudan, and 'Uthman al-Dardiri, Sudan's ambassador in Damascus, attended the talks.

In a statement to journalists following the meeting, Qaddur said: I met with Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir and conveyed a message to his excellency from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad, dealing with the Arab situation in general and bilateral relations in particular, in addition to issues of joint interest.

The Sudanese leader had earlier made a statement to a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Khartoum in which he stressed Sudan's appreciation for President al-Asad's pan-Arab stands and his concern

about unifying Arabs to confront threats to the Arab nation. He said: I have received President al-Asad's message which dealt with Sudanese-Egyptian relations. He stressed President al-Asad's concern for the Arab nation's issue and for containing differences in the Arab arena, proceeding from President al-Asad's unionist policy and political efforts to safeguard the unity of the Arab stand.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir added: We are living in the age of big international blocs, while the Arab nation is fragmented and split, something which is a subject of concern for President Hafiz al-Asad. We are aware of his excellency's principled and pan-Arab policy and stands which have never changed. I thank brother President Hafiz al-Asad for the efforts he exerts to unify Arabs and safeguard the unity of the Arab stand to confront challenges to the Arab nation.

Concluding his statement, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir wished President Hafiz al-Asad continued good health and happiness.

Nasir Qaddur arrived in Khartoum yesterday. He was received at the airport by Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, minister of state at the Sudanese presidency, Muhammad al-Mahamid, Syria's ambassador to Sudan, and a number of senior Sudanese Foreign Ministry officials.

Egyptian Acts at Hala'ib Regarded as 'Incursions'

EA1601214493 Khartoum SUNA in English 1650 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 16 Jan (SUNA)—Director of the Borders Department at the Interior Ministry and member of the joint Sudanese-Egyptian Border Committee, Colonel Ahmed al-Husayn has said the acts being done by the Egyptian authorities at Hala'ib area were regarded as Egyptian incursions [and] violations of the Sudanese lands.

In a press statement to SUNA, Col. al-Husayn has stated that the reality of the situation concerning Hala'ib issue refutes the Egyptian allegations that the area to the north of until Shalatin is an Egyptian land, adding that no Egyptian administrative existence or any form of presence that reflects Egyptian sovereignty was prevalent at the area.

Col. al-Husayn has said that the Sudan was hopeful that the Egyptian side would understand the role of the joint border committee which was formed to continue discussion toward settlement of Hala'ib issue. He explained that escalation of the situation by the Egyptian media and press has polluted the cordial climate which was dominating meetings of the joint ministerial committee. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Hala'ib Issue

EA1601202993 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Jan (SUNA)—Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul delivered a speech on foreign policy Saturday [16 January] before a forum organized by Foreign Affairs Committee of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA).

He reviewed the Hala'ib problem affirming that Sudan is exerting efforts to contain the dispute for the interest of the two peoples.

He described the United Nations resolution concerning human rights in Sudan as a political one and unacceptable.

Members of the committee emphasised the necessity for the TNA to supervise the country's foreign policy.

Al-Bashir Denies Moves To Reconcile With Opposition

EA1501134593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Jan (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has denied any trend to hold national reconciliation between government and the opposition. At a press conference he held Thursday [14 January] at the Friendship Hall, Gen al-Bashir affirmed that malpractice of the dissolved partisan leadership currently leading the opposition were behind [the] advent of the salvation revolution. He emphasised that participation in government is allowed for any who want through the revolution's congresses. [sentence as received]

The RCC chairman has emphasised Sudan's keenness to strengthen time with Egypt, adding that the Sudan will never give up any part of its lands. [sentence as received]

Tunisia**Foreign Ministry Statement on Iraqi Situation**

LD1801190193 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Tunis has issued a statement which says that Tunisia, which has always been concerned with the preservation of security and peace in the world and committed to international legality, the UN Charter, and UN resolutions, which have always urged the need for dialogue and negotiation to resolve all disputes, has been following with deep concern the fresh escalation of tension in the Gulf region.

Tunisia expresses its deep regret at the fall of innocent civilian victims among the sons of fraternal Iraq. In line with its devotion to its principles, Tunisia hopes that all parties will commit themselves to resolving all disputes

in the region within the framework of respect for the sovereignty and the independence of all countries.

Proceeding from its commitment to the Arab Maghreb Union and Arab League resolutions, Tunisia, which has always expressed its commitment to the need for respect for the state of Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as its right to live in security and peace, reaffirms, in line with the aforementioned principles, the need also for respect for Iraq's sovereignty, its territorial integrity, and the unity of its people.

However, proceeding from its commitment to the UN Charter and principles, as well as its undying support for international legality and the need for all UN member countries to adhere to it, Tunisia reaffirms the need to implement UN Security Council resolutions in a uniform manner and upon the basis of equality regardless of the parties involved. This is particularly the case at a time when the world is facing serious challenges to international legality and human rights, such as, in particular, Israel's refusal to implement UN resolutions, the last of which was Resolution 799 calling for the return of Palestinian deportees to their homeland, and the Serbian forces' stubbornness and continued aggression against an independent state and their continuation of ethnic cleansing policies against innocent civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Egyptian Prime Minister Pays Visit**Meets President**

NC1601141393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali when the latter received him at the Presidential Palace in Tunisia today. Dr. Sidqi said that during the meeting, President Ben Ali hailed the excellent relations between Egypt and Tunisia as well as between himself and President Mubarak. Dr. Sidqi added that the Tunisian president praised the work of the Higher Joint Egyptian-Tunisian Committee and called on both governments to exert their best efforts to consolidate bilateral political, economic, commercial, and cultural ties and enhance bilateral cooperation in the information, communications, and transport areas. The Tunisian president also called on the two governments to encourage the businessmen of each country to invest in the other. [passage omitted]

Agreements Signed

NC1601174393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] The Higher Egyptian-Tunisian Committee today ended its third session in Tunis, under the cochairmanship of [Egyptian] Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and Hamed

Karoui, his Tunisian counterpart, with the signing of three agreements on economic, trade, oil, and education cooperation.

At the conclusion of the meetings, Dr. Sidqi delivered a speech saying that the viewpoints of both countries are identical concerning political and economic freedom. Responsible freedom, he said, is one that does not infringe on other people's freedom and is the opposite of intellectual and criminal terror. In the economic sphere, freedom is fair competition, he stated. Dr. Sidqi also called for incentives to encourage Egyptian and Tunisian businessmen to establish joint economic ventures.

Tunisian Prime Minister Karoui then delivered a speech stressing the need to follow up on the situation to ensure the implementation of the higher committee's political, economic, commercial, and security-related decisions. Karoui pointed out that Egyptians and Tunisians live in complete freedom and take part in decisionmaking in a way that will further development.

Joint Communiqué Issued

*LD1701203793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 93*

[Text] A Tunisian-Egyptian joint communiqué was released today following the conclusion of the visit of Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi to Tunisia on the occasion of the third session of the Tunisian-Egyptian higher joint committee.

The talks with Dr 'Atif Sidqi were led by Prime Minister Hamid Karoui, during which the prospects for cooperation between Tunisia and Egypt were reviewed. The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the positive and constructive steps achieved on the road of integration between the two countries. They renewed their intention to continue pursuing the reinforcement of the fruitful cooperation in implementing the directives of Presidents Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

The following documents were signed: minutes of meeting of the preparatory committee for proceedings of the third session of the Tunisian-Egyptian higher joint committee; minutes of meetings of the third session of the Tunisia-Egyptian higher joint committee; the educational program of action; program of action in the field of oil and mineral resources; minutes of meetings of the second session of the committee for commerce; and the list of goods annexed to the commercial agreement in force between the two countries and according to the latest amendments.

In the joint communiqué, the two sides expressed their intention and determination to continue their efforts for reinforcing the unity of the Arab ranks and strengthening the relations of fraternity and cooperation between the Arab brothers with a view to protecting the interests of

the Arab nation and in the service of its fateful issues, foremost of which is the issue of the struggling Palestinian people.

On this occasion they renewed their full support for the peace process and stressed the importance of its continuity with the aim of reaching a comprehensive, just, and durable settlement of the Middle East problem which ensures to the people of Palestine the recovery of their legitimate rights, and realizes total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in line with the UN Security Council resolutions, and especially Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace.

In this context the two sides expressed their profound concern and deep dissatisfaction at the Israeli decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians. They stressed the seriousness of this move on the peace process and the escalation of violence in the region. They demanded that Israel comply with UN Security Council Resolution 799 and respect the will of the international community by immediately returning the deportees to their homes. They stressed their support for the Lebanese stance regarding this issue.

Concerning the crisis existing between the Libyan Jamahiriya and some Western countries, they expressed their intention to continue efforts to solve the crisis by peaceful means in a way that ensures the protection of the fraternal Libyan people's interests and respect for international legitimacy.

The two sides expressed their concern over the tragic conditions in sister Somalia and stressed the need for intensifying Arab and international efforts to extricate the Somali people from the crisis in which they are living.

The two sides reviewed the prospects for Arab-African cooperation and stressed the importance of revitalizing it.

The two sides expressed their concern over the continuous deterioration of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and appealed to the international community to move to stop the crimes, genocide operations, and ethnic cleansing carried out by the Serbs against the Muslims. They stressed the need for immediate implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions in this regard.

The two sides stressed the importance of continuing and intensifying consultations and contacts between the two countries in order to effectively contribute to implementing the new international order, and emphasized the necessity of building it on the basis of justice, fairness, and solidarity among the peoples and respect for international legitimacy in all parts of the world and in regard of all issues in question.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his accompanying delegation expressed their admiration for the comprehensive progress being achieved by the Tunisian Republic at all levels under the leadership of President Zine El Abidine

Ben Ali. Dr 'Atif Sidqi also expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to the members of the Egyptian delegation in Tunisia.

Sidqi Comments, Departs

LD1701215993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi this afternoon left Tunis where he had headed his country's delegation to the third session of the Tunisian-Egyptian higher joint committee. Prime Minister Karoui was at the forefront of those who saw the Egyptian guest off at Tunis-Carthage international airport.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi made a statement to journalists in the airport's VIP lounge. He stressed that his contacts and

consultations during his visit showed the warmth that marks relations between Tunisia and Egypt. [passage omitted] He pointed out that the important amendments introduced to the trade agreement between the two countries in order to stimulate and strengthen economic exchanges between the two countries open up broad and tangible prospects for strengthening economic integration between Tunisia and Egypt, and thus reinforcing ties between the two fraternal peoples under the leadership of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

In this respect, the Egyptian prime minister underlined the similarity of the points of view and options of the two countries at the political and economic levels. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Amir Inaugurates Consultative Assembly First Session

JN1601105093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 16 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin- Salman Al Khalifah said that the Consultative Council provides an appropriate formula which agrees with the nature of the current phase and its requirements of unity and cohesion on the national level, on the one hand, and with the wisdom, patience, and establishment of stability on the Arab and world levels on the other.

His highness said an objective assessment of these conditions prompts one to prefer this patient and planned course as regards the steps relating to development and reform in all fields of work and action, on both domestic and foreign levels.

The amir's statements were made in a speech inaugurating the Bahraini Consultative Council and the start of its first term. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Reportage on Iraqi Border Situation

Protest to UN

LD1501200293 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The State of Kuwait lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council over the Iraqi regime's non-compliance with the resolution to remove six police stations erected on Kuwaiti territories by 15 January at the latest.

Nabilah al-Mullah, member of the Kuwaiti mission at the United Nations, said in a message she sent yesterday to the UN Security Council President Yoshio Hatano that instead of complying with the resolution, the Iraqi regime has increased the number of personnel in these stations.

The message described the continued presence of the stations as a very urgent case, and pointed out that the members of the UN Security Council have themselves expressed their concern, and insisted on the need to remove the stations by 15 January at the latest. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Spokesman Comments

NC1601064493 Paris AFP in English 2245 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Jan 16 (AFP) - Iraq on Friday failed to comply with a 2100 GMT UN deadline to dismantle six police posts on its border with Kuwait, a Defence

Ministry spokesman told AFP. "We have had no information on the dismantling of the Iraqi border posts," the spokesman said as the midnight local time deadline expired.

The police post are on Kuwaiti territory under a new boundary drawn up by the United Nations following the Gulf War. UN observers in Kuwait could not confirm that the Iraqis had proceeded with the operation.

Earlier Friday, Abdellatif Kabbaj, spokesman for the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), said any Iraqi failure to do so would be reported back to the Security Council. He did not say if Baghdad had agreed to dismantle the border posts.

Iraqi work teams made four incursions into Kuwaiti territory this week to recover material, and took back arms including anti-ship Silkworm missiles in a first raid on Sunday.

Another UNIKOM official who declined to be identified told AFP that "the Iraqis have already recovered all essential non-military material from the border area and left behind nothing of value." "They took whatever they could and burned or destroyed the rest to prevent UNIKOM from using it," he added.

Iraq was given UN permission to recover non-military equipment from the Kuwaiti side of the new border. But the incursions went ahead without the necessary prior approval of Kuwait and UNIKOM, the observer mission has said. Baghdad denied doing anything illegal.

Iraqi Policemen Remain

NC1601125193 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Umm Qasr, Kuwait, Jan 16 (AFP) - Some 50 Iraqi policemen remained Saturday in Kuwait in defiance of a UN ultimatum for their withdrawal, a UN official here said.

"For the moment they are still here," said Abdellatif Kabbaj, the spokesman of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) several hours after the 2100 GMT UN ultimatum expired.

Meeting With UN Envoys

LD1601185293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1242 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Jan (KUNA)— Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin conferred this morning with the ambassadors of the UN Security Council permanent members. He followed up with the ambassadors the current developments in the region brought about by the Iraqi regime's continued violations of Security Council resolutions and discussed the Security Council's responsibility to force the Iraqi regime to implement all resolutions on Kuwait.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary also asserted the need to remove the six Iraqi police stations which are within Kuwaiti territory. He pointed out that their presence constitutes a clear violation of Kuwaiti sovereignty, particularly now that the commission in charge of the demarcation of the borders has ended its work, and stressed that the Iraqi regime must not use such posts as a pretext to continue its violations of Kuwaiti sovereignty over its borders. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments

LD1601221993 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs has asserted the need for the Iraqi regime to comply with all UN Security Council resolutions in order to avoid causing further harm to Iraqi people.

Shaykh Sabah al-Jabir met today with Henry Saby, the chairman of the development and cooperation committee of the European Parliament, who is visiting Kuwait. In statements to journalists after the meeting, he expressed the hope that the Iraqi people will not be harmed further because of the arrogant head of that country's regime, who is fighting the world with words as he is too weak to confront it.

The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister also expressed his hope that all border problems between Kuwait and Iraq will be solved, adding that Kuwait has no ambitions in Iraq and only wants to end the border problem. [passage omitted]

Shooting Incident With Iraqi Infiltrators

LD1701132993 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] An authoritative source at the Interior Ministry has announced that at 1015 today, while it was carrying out its usual duty of securing our northern borders, a Kuwaiti patrol was fired on by three Iraqi infiltrators who had crossed into Kuwaiti territory. The patrol returned the fire, killed one of the infiltrators, and arrested another. The third infiltrator escaped toward the Iraqi territory after he was hit.

The source added that the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission [UNIKOM] forces have been informed about this incident so that they can investigate this transgression.

Minister Wants UK, French Help

NC1801093693 Paris AFP in English 0858 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Jan 18 (AFP)—Kuwait wants British and French troops to join U.S. forces in defending its border with Iraq, Defence Minister 'Ali Salim al-Sabah said Monday.

Shaykh 'Ali, quoted in the daily AL-ANBA'A, said Kuwait wanted the allied troops deployed at the northern and northwestern borders "to repel any attack launched by the Iraqi regime's forces."

His comments came a day after a U.S. cruise missile attack on the Baghdad region and the second anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf War, when a U.S.-led coalition ended the Iraqi occupation of this oil-rich state.

Kuwait "intends to ask for British and French ground forces to join the Americans" deployed near the Iraqi border, he said.

The United States dispatched 1,100 troops to help guard Kuwait following four Iraqi incursions last week.

Kuwait has defence agreements with the United States, Britain and France. Shaykh 'Ali said it might ask other members of the Gulf War coalition to help join in the defence effort.

He said Kuwaiti forces had been on "maximum alert" since the allies launched a first air raid on southern Iraq last Wednesday.

"The Iraqi enemy will be taught a harsh lesson if it attacks" he said, quoting a clash on Sunday as an example.

In that incident, a Kuwaiti patrol shot dead an Iraqi policeman and wounded at least one other in a clash in the demilitarised zone on the Kuwaiti side of the international border, a spokesman for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission said.

There has been rising alarm here at the increasingly belligerent stance taken by Iraq, which regards Kuwait as its 19th province.

President Saddam Husayn, who ordered the August 1990 invasion, has not given up his claim on his tiny neighbour, and Iraq has rejected a new border drawn up by the United Nations after the Gulf War.

However, it finally began dismantling six police posts in what is now the Kuwaiti side of the border on Sunday, two days after a Security Council deadline.

Baghdad had ignored the ultimatum and kept 46 Iraqi policemen inside the emirate.

Kuwait also reported Sunday that it took control of seven Iraqi oil wells located inside the new border.

'Maximum Alert' in North

NC1801121593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1158 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Jan (MENA)—Maximum alert has been declared at Kuwait's northern border today. It has been decided to keep the Kuwaiti Higher Defense

Council in open session. An Iraqi Scud missile fell near Kuwait International Airport after being intercepted by U.S. Patriot missiles.

In another development, a responsible Kuwaiti official said Kuwait Airport authorities were informed by the Kuwaiti Air Force that radar equipment today monitored signals from Scud missiles heading toward the airport. It was later learned that these signals came from U.S. aircraft, which send the same radar signal as the Scud missiles.

Travel and aviation movement to and from Kuwait returned to normal when it became certain there was no danger in Kuwaiti airspace.

An Egyptair plane has since left Kuwait Airport for Cairo.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1203 GMT on 18 January adds the following: "Kuwaiti airport authorities ordered everybody there into shelters Monday, military sources reported.

["They remained there for an hour.

["The sources gave no reason for the measure, but allied aircraft raided southern Iraq early in the day, and a Pentagon source in Washington said another raid had been carried out against northern Iraq.

["Monday afternoon, Kuwaiti television broadcast instructions on precautions to take if air raid sirens sounded.

["Air raid sirens sounded twice Monday in eastern Saudi Arabia where allied aircraft are based.]

Scud Attack Denied

LD1801130393 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1243 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: The director of the General Administration of Civil Aviation has denied today's reports that an Iraqi Scud missile fell near Kuwait airport. In a statement to KUNA, the director said that the reports that Kuwaiti air defenses have intercepted the Scud with a Patriot missile are totally untrue.

Border Posts Being Dismantled

LD1801134793 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] An authoritative source in the UNIKOM [UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission] has stated that the Iraqi regime today began taking down its flags from the six border posts which will be removed and handed over to the UN monitoring forces on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The source added that the Iraqis have in fact begun dismantling the first post in the area of Safwan. It is

worth mentioning that the six border posts are situated in Umm Qasr, Abu Musa, Kahit, Safwan, Talha, and Rudkah, inside the Kuwaiti borders, where 46 Iraqi policemen were stationed.

Possession of Patriots Confirmed

LD1901103993 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah confirmed that Kuwait is in possession of the anti-missile Patriot missile batteries for its protection and in order to repel any external aggression against it.

The minister of information, at a press conference held at the National Assembly yesterday, expressed Kuwait's wishes to U.S. President George Bush for success in his private capacity after the end of his term of office tomorrow, Wednesday.

Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir Al Sabah praised the historic and supportive stands that President Bush adopted during the period of the tyrant Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait.

Oman

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives, Received by Sultan Qabus

JN1601144193 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan arrived in the country this afternoon on a private several-day visit to the Sultanate. His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id was at the head of those who received His Majesty King Husayn upon his arrival at the Sultanate's private airport.

Discussion of Relations

JN1601164293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn has arrived safely at al-Sib International Airport in Muscat. He was received by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, the sultan of Oman. [passage omitted]

Their Majesties King Husayn and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id held a meeting in Bayt-al-Barakah Palace. They discussed bilateral relations and current developments in the Arab region. [passage omitted]

King Leaves

JN1801150593 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has left the country after a private three-day visit to the Sultanate.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id was at the head of those who bid farewell to his majesty the king at the Sultanate's private airport. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Council Stresses Respect for All UN Resolutions

LD1801194493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1735 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, 18 January (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a Council of Ministers meeting held this afternoon in the al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

Following the meeting, his excellency the minister of information, 'Ali al-Sha'ir, made the following statement to SPA: At the start of today's meeting, the beloved king reviewed with the Council of Ministers the most prominent military and security developments in the region, discussed the causes and motives which had led to the raising of tension in the region these days, and informed the Council of the military and security reports submitted to the office of the prime minister on today's events.

The minister of information also said: In this context, the Council of Ministers stressed the need to respect and implement the resolutions of the UN Security Council in general, whether pertaining to the Gulf region, or pertaining to the Palestinian problem and the issue of the banishment of Palestinians, or pertaining to Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other resolutions which embody and consolidate international legitimacy and preserve human dignity and establish justice and peace all over the world.

The minister went on to add: The custodian of the two holy mosques also acquainted the Council of the results of his talks with His Excellency Mr. Jonathan Aitkin, British minister of state for defense affairs, and His Excellency General Khaled Nezzar, member of the Algerian Higher State Council and minister of defense. The beloved king described these talks as serving and consolidating bilateral relations with the United Kingdom and Algeria. They also included matters of common interest on various levels.

Residents Say Air Raid Sirens Sound Twice 18 Jan

NC1801114093 Paris AFP in English 1132 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 18 (AFP)—Air raid sirens sounded in eastern Saudi Arabia for the second time on Monday, residents of the region told AFP by telephone.

The latest alert was still going on, they said around 1120 GMT. The sirens sounded the first time when allied aircraft based at Dhahran struck early in the morning at anti-aircraft defences in southern Iraq.

Papers Call For Overthrow of Iraq's Saddam

LD1601055593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0300 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 16 Jan (SPA)—[passage omitted] 'UKAZ writes under the headline "The Maneuvers of the Destructive: The Aim and the Purpose" that only a few days passed since the disciplinary raid approved by the world against Saddam Husayn when Saddam the destructive returned to play the game of maneuvers when he agreed to admit UN inspection teams into Iraq, announcing, however, that he would not be responsible for their safety. Thus he confirms unintentionally that these teams will face aggression from his quarter, for who else will threaten these UN teams other than the Iraqi regime? [passage omitted]

The paper stresses that the Iraqi regime will remain not just a source for annoyance; rather, it will be a source for constant danger, for the conviction of the man who can annihilate a people without hesitation means that he would have liked to destroy the world if he could. It also means that given the small chance to do what he wants to secure his survival, he will not hesitate to do so. Thus logic, reason, and the stability and security of the region clearly indicate that Saddam must go away forever at any price, because his survival means that the eventual price will be higher than all that has happened until now.

AL-MADINAH writes under the headline "Toppling the Tyrant Is an Iraqi, Islamic, and Arab Demand" that getting rid of Saddam Husayn is primarily an Iraqi demand on the grounds that the event is an internal affair that converges with the interests of the Iraqi people, whose human and economic resources were squandered by the tyrant, who persists in doing so, turning a deaf ear to the cries at home and to his rejection by the international community as a whole. [passage omitted]

The paper stresses that when the Iraqi people call in the way that the Iraqi opposition factions have done on the international community to assist them in toppling the tyrant, it is the duty of the Arab and Islamic nation to respond to this call in defense of a fraternal people and of its squandered resources and thought for more than a decade in wars and courses that have wasted efforts that the Muslims needed for more urgent and important ends.

AL-BILAD writes under the headline "Saddam: Today's and Yesterday's Disasters" that the flagrant transgressions by the Iraqi regime, which led to the air strike by the coalition forces on Wednesday evening, indicate that this regime does not benefit from the harsh experiences toward which it rushes and in whose calamities it drowns the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

The paper concludes its editorial by saying that events repeat themselves as though the Iraqi people are destined to suffer the consequences of the follies of their leader, and as though the tax that the Iraqi people must pay as a

price for the survival of despotic rule of this deviant and sick leader is their security and stability.

Further Press Reaction 16 Jan

LD1601133193 Riyadh SPA in English 1241 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 16, SPA—The Saudi newspapers commented today editorially on a number of topics.

Under the title of "Plan of the Paranoid" said Jeddah-based SAUDI GAZETTE will the U.S. be ever able to cure its anti-Islam paranoia? With Islam declared the enemy of the West now after the death of communism, Pakistan is the sixth Muslim nation which faces the threat of being declared as a terrorist state by the US. An official note from Washington, handed over by US Ambassador John Monjo last Thursday, requires to convince Washington within 120 days that it was not fanning the trouble in Kashmir and Punjab on the Indian side. Failing this the US would place Pakistan on the list of terrorist states.

The US list of terrorist states suggests that the Western wrath is always reserved for Muslim states that have some potential for power.

The latest Washington move is another indication of the US foreign policy duplicity, being emphasized since 1990. Bid to create a regional ambience for arms control that begins with Israel and ends with India is of course an integral part of the new world order doctrine.

That Pakistan would be the next target of Western selectivity was evident since long. Pakistan's strategic importance was eroded with the end of the Afghan war.

Jeddah-based UKAZ deplored the irrational policy of the Iraqi regime and said the punitive attack launched on Iraq by the Western allies was a warning to Saddam that he would be checked if he went ahead in his intransigent policy.

The Iraqi regime has been not only a source of nuisance but also a source of continuous menace, said the daily.

On its part Jeddah-based AL-MADINA called for toppling Saddam and said Saddam has been exhausting the human and economic resources of Iraq.

The Arab and Muslim nation should cooperate with the Iraqi people in ending the tyrannical rule in Baghdad, added the daily.

Dammam-based AL-YAUM said the existence of the regime of Saddam Hussayn will no doubt undermine the global peace and stability.

It has become very clear that Saddam Hussayn has never learnt a lesson from his previous adventures, said the paper and added 'there is no way to end the ordeal of the Iraqi people except through toppling the regime of Saddam. [no end quotation mark as received]

Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH, commenting on the developments of the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina said the international community has started to take practical measures to against the Serbians.

The warning of the foreign ministers to Serbia is a positive step towards the settlement of the dispute in this Balkan country, said the daily.

18 Jan Comment

LD1801125693 Riyadh SPA in English 1227 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 18, SPA—The Saudi newspapers commented today editorially on a number of topics.

Under the title of 'No Option' AL-RIYAD daily said two years have gone by since the war to evict Iraq from Kuwait began. The Iraqi suffered a humiliating defeat, but they are yet to learn an exemplary lesson. Hardly any effort has been made by them to oust their dictator. Saddam Husayn still remains at the helm of affairs in Baghdad to blackmail and terrorize the region and the world.

Saddam has employed every opportunity to show his bellicosity, defying global opinion. His absolute contempt for civilized norms has been vivid countless times since allied forces crushed the might of the Iraqi military machine. And his defiance is equalled by the allies' determination to ensure that he never becomes a source of instability in this political and economically vital region.

Commenting on the assumption of power by Bill Clinton as the new U.S. President, Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH said Clinton will find in his oval office a heap of files containing a number of hot issues.

No doubt Washington is the most capable capital to deal with these problems, said the daily.

Despite the undeniable fact that the US under the leadership of George Bush exerted efforts to solve so many problems, yet it will be the responsibility of the US new president to continue the efforts of Bush so as to solve the pending problems, said the daily.

About fifty years are over and the Palestinian problem remains without settlement, said the paper and added the Palestinians have been suffering from oppression, injustice and expulsion.

The U.S. which provides Israel with all things it needs is capable of practicing pressure on the Jewish state until it complies with the international will and legitimacy, said the daily.

Moreover, the daily said, the ordeal of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina is waiting for a firm and decisive stand.

Silence over the massacre of the innocent people in this Balkan republic can no longer be tolerated, added the daily.

It is high time for Clinton to determinely and decisively tackle the pending problems, the daily concluded.

19 Jan Comment

LD1901131593 Riyadh SPA in English 1229 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan. 19, SPA—Saudi newspapers commented editorially today on the situation in the Gulf and wrong practices of the Iraqi regime.

The Dammam-based AL-YA'UM said the allied forces attacks on northern and southern Iraq were aimed at forcing the Iraqi regime to comply with the U.N. resolutions. The paper said this regime was still defying the allied forces which were fully determinant on making this regime comply with the resolutions of the U.N. The paper said the Iraqi president was placing his country in the eye of the storm and the victim was the Iraqi people who were living in a state of fear.

The Jeddah-based AL-MADINAH commented on the wrongful acts of Saddam Husayn who did not care about the fate of the Iraqi people who were living under a reign of terror. Baghdad ruler, the paper said, had lost his creditibility and validity to rule long ago. The last attacks on Iraq were justified in view of Saddam Husayn insistence on defying and breaching all U.N. resolutions.

The Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said Saddam Husayn was bringing this wrath on the heads of his people. The paper said the dead mistake was that the Baghdad regime was dealing with current global developments with an old mentality and tactics which had prevailed during the conflict between the east and the West. The paper said the responsibility of change lies on the shoulders of the Iraqi people themselves. The Iraqi people had lost greatly and they should change the situation in order to regain the world sympathy and support, the paper added.

The Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH said the provocative acts of the Iraqi regime were doing great harm to the Iraqi people who should ask themselves why they were keeping silent toward the whims of Saddam Husayn. An end to this nightmare should be made by the Iraqi people, the paper said.

Yemen

President Receives Saddam's Message, Denounces Raids

JN1801171793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received Dr. Muhsin Khalil, ambassador of fraternal Iraq to Yemen, who conveyed a message to the president from his brother President Saddam Husayn, dealing with current developments in light of the air raids to which Iraq is being exposed by U.S. aircraft and missiles.

The brother president expressed our country's denunciation of the air raids against Iraq, which are unjustified, cause harm to the fraternal Iraqi people, and increase their suffering from the economic sanctions imposed on them.

The brother president said: It is regrettable that these raids take place against fraternal Iraq in the name of international legitimacy at a time when the world is witnessing double standards in the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, whether in Palestine or in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He called on the sons and leaders of the Arab nation to close their ranks, discard differences, and reactivate Arab solidarity which will achieve the Arab nation's objectives and reinforce its ability to confront challenges.

Croatian Minister Holds Talks, Delivers Letter for Salih

JN1601190693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Presidential Council member, today received Croatian Trade Minister Branko Miksa, who delivered a letter from President Franjo Tudjman to brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, dealing with developments in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The letter also voiced Croatia's interest in increasing political, economic, and commercial ties with our country. The two officials discussed and explored ways of stepping up bilateral economic cooperation. They also talked about conditions in the former Yugoslavia, and efforts being made to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Brother 'Abd-al-Ghani said that Yemen is willing to see cooperation between the two friendly countries enhanced. The meeting was attended by brother Fadil Muhsin 'Abdallah, minister of supply and trade; Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Qadir; and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad Dayfallah al-'Uzayb.

Reportage on Disputed UN Inspection Flights

Iraqi Official on UN Flights

JN1501210593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2040 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Brother citizens, we have just received the following:

An official source said this evening that Iraq has informed the Baghdad office of the UN Security Council Special Commission in Baghdad, the Commission's Chairman Ekeus in New York, and the Security Council, that Iraq does not object to the flights of planes chartered by the Commission in Iraqi airspace on 15, 16, 17, and 18 January. The source said that Iraq has also informed the Special Commission and the Security Council that Iraq will not be held fully responsible for the safety of these planes but the responsibility is borne by the United States, Britain, and France, whose war planes are continuing to violate Iraqi airspace in an exposed aggression which Iraq cannot but resist in defense of its sovereignty.

The following is the text of the Foreign Ministry's letter.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry sends its greetings to the Special Commission's bureau in Baghdad, with reference to the Commission's note dated 13 January 1993. The Ministry would like to point out that Iraq has informed the UN Security Council in a written message from the foreign minister and dated 13 January 1993 that the Iraqi Government has decided to permit UN planes to come to Iraq on a case-by-case basis using al-Habbaniyah Airport in accordance with the formula that had been in operation. The Ministry would also like to reconfirm the contents of a letter from the Iraqi foreign minister—mentioned above—that Iraq, is, at present, being targeted for military aggression by U.S., British, and French aircraft, and that Iraq is exercising its natural right to self-defense and that such a situation surely threatens the safety of aviation in general in Iraqi airspace.

Accordingly, Iraq does not object to meeting your request contained in your above mentioned note. However, Iraq insists that it will not be responsible for the safety of the planes within Iraqi airspace in the event of a mistake or misunderstanding. God forbid. This is because all the guns in Iraq and even on a popular level are aimed to defend the skies and sovereignty of the country—since it came under a known string of aggressive acts. Hostile aircraft are still violating Iraqi sovereignty and airspace.

The Ministry takes this opportunity to express to the Special Commission's bureau in Baghdad its best wishes.

Official Response to UN Demands

JN1501221993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2110 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The U.S., British, French, and Russian ambassadors met with the Iraqi permanent representative to the

United Nations in New York yesterday and handed him several points for discussion stating that Iraq refused to grant clearance for the entry of planes used by the Special Commission, deeming this an unacceptable violation of Security Council Resolution 687, noting that the coalition will not condone this violation. We, the ambassadors added, noted Iraq's statement which said that it is willing to grant the UN planes flight clearance. We believe that Iraq is fully responsible for ensuring the safety of these planes. We will not condone any interference or obstruction of the Special Commission's activities, the ambassadors added.

Our permanent representative to the United Nations today communicated to the four countries Iraq's response to the points relayed to him by the four ambassadors. The following is the text of Iraq's response:

Iraq's response to the points for discussion raised by the Western countries:

Iraq has honored its commitments as enshrined in Resolution 687 of 1991. Any claims to the contrary are groundless claims that are based on political purposes that have nothing to do with Resolution 687. Iraq has provided the UN inspection teams with all the facilities to enable them to perform their missions in accordance with Resolution 687. Similarly, it has seriously cooperated with them. The problems which occurred in the past were not caused by Iraq, but rather by the interference of U.S. intelligence agents in the missions of the inspection teams, their pursuit of a provocative conduct, and their submission of requests that have nothing to do with Resolution 687. These agents most often raised problems to promote the purposes of the Bush administration under the U.S. election circumstances, as well as other political and intelligence purposes which have nothing to do with the assignments of inspection teams.

The foreign minister informed the Security Council president in a letter dated 13 January 1993, that Iraq decided to allow UN planes to come to Iraq on a case-by-case basis, using al-Habbaniyah Airport in accordance with the previous arrangement.

The foreign minister also clearly affirmed that Iraq will not assume any responsibility for the safety of UN planes in the Iraqi airspace because of the aggression being mounted on Iraq by the U.S., British, and French military aircraft.

Iraq does not object to planes chartered by the Special Commission flying in Iraqi airspace but at their own risk. We cannot in any way ignore the current situation, namely that the war planes belonging to America, Britain, and France are violating Iraqi airspace. Iraq resists this violation in defense of its sovereignty.

The responsibility for any danger to the Special Commission's planes is fully borne by America, Britain, and France which attack Iraq and violate its airspace with their war planes.

Practically, Iraq cannot be held fully responsible for the safety of the planes used by the United Nations unless Iraq is completely in control of its airspace and when the American, British, and French war planes stop violating its airspace.

Iraq does not recognize that the representatives of the four countries represent the United Nations when they inform us of these stands. The Security Council has its president and the United Nations has a secretary general. Yet, Iraq's response to the points for discussion, which were delivered to our ambassador yesterday is based on the desire to explain its position and explain the facts.

Iraq informs the United Nations of its stands through our diplomatic channels.

[Dated] 15 January 1993.

UN Said To Deny Bush Ultimatum

JN1601083393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] New York, 16 Jan (INA)—The United Nations has stated it has nothing to do with criminal Bush's threat against Iraq on the flights of aircraft carrying UN weapons experts in Iraqi airspace.

Criminal Bush claimed that the United Nations told the Iraqi leadership that Iraq will be in a state of noncompliance with its resolutions if it does not allow UN aircraft to fly over Iraq before midnight last night, Baghdad time.

A spokesman for the United Nations said Bush's declaration is not true because neither the UN Security Council nor the UN secretary general had taken part in the preparation of the ultimatum.

Inspectors Waiting for Assurances

NC1601091193 Paris AFP in English 0849 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Manama, Jan 16 (AFP) - Some 70 UN weapons inspectors and personnel stuck here for almost two weeks were awaiting Iraqi assurances on Saturday [16 January] to guarantee the safety of their flights into Iraq. Iraq late Friday gave limited clearance to the flights but declined to take responsibility for their safety, prompting U.S. warnings that the latest showdown with Baghdad was not over.

Douglas Englund, head of a UN coordination office in Bahrain, told AFP there were no plans for a flight to Iraq on Saturday but that they may resume on Sunday. "We are waiting for Iraqi assurances to guarantee the safety of our planes," he said. "Everything depends on the Iraqi answer," Englund added. [passage omitted]

Request Said To Be 'American Ploy'

JN1601133393 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Jan. 16, INA—An Iraqi official source last night said that request of the U.N. Committee to dispatch aircraft at the present condition is considered an American ploy.

The source told INA that the UN Committee is fully aware that planes of the hostile alliance were active in Iraqi airspace and that Iraqi air defences confront them.

The source said that never in the history of the United Nations had the U.N. requested sending its aircraft in risky conditions like the present ones.

The source further said that the committee's request now was nothing more than an indirect attempt to motivate Iraq to an implicit acceptance to the arrangements of the no-fly zone imposed by America, France and Britain and which is being strongly resisted by Iraq nowadays apart from its being the essence of the current crisis.

The source concluded that appearance of the American President George Bush himself to announce the ultimatum confirms this interpretation. [passage omitted]

UN 'Not Informed' of Safety Guarantee

NC1601182593 Paris AFP in English 1749 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Jan 16 (AFP) - Another clash seemed imminent Saturday [16 January] between Iraq and Western allies determined to make Baghdad comply with UN resolutions unless Saddam Husayn backs down from his game of brinkmanship.

Despite another 11th hour quasi-retreat, with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz saying Iraq would guarantee the safety of a UN special commission if its members fly into the country from Jordan in the west, Baghdad continued to reject two no-fly zones in the north and south patrolled by allied aircraft.

"We are challenging the no-fly zones," Aziz said in a live press conference broadcast by Cable News Network. "We are refusing the no-fly zones." Iraq had earlier refused to guarantee protection for UN aircraft and continued to reject the dismantling of police posts in Kuwait.

But Aziz said the commission charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction had been notified of the safety assurance.

The UN's coordinating bureau in Bahrain however said it had not been notified of the Iraqi decision.

"I'm not informed, it's the first time I heard about this," the bureau's field coordinator, Douglas Englund, told AFP, adding that it was "too soon" to tell if there would be a flight Sunday. [passage omitted]

'Aziz News Conference 16 Jan

LD1601223193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy prime minister has declared that Iraq agrees to the arrival of the specified planes and to guarantee their safety if they enter Iraq and follow the direct flight route between Amman or any point in Jordan or al-Habbaniyyah.

'Aziz said at a news conference attended by representatives of foreign and domestic TV networks, local newspapers, and INA, that the special committee has to notify Iraq of the time of the plane's entry into Iraqi air space at the border point and duration of the flight between entry point and arrival at al-Habbaniyyah airfield; and the same also with respect to the return of the plane on 17, 18, 19, and 20 January.

'Aziz said that a notification to this effect was contained in a message from the Foreign Ministry sent to the bureau of the Special Commission in Baghdad with a drop copy to New York.

'Aziz said that the main issue in the current confrontation over the so-called the no-fly zone which has been imposed unilaterally and illegally by the governments of the United States, Britain, and France, a matter not related to UN resolutions.

'Aziz pointed out that Iraq resists this illegal and arbitrary measure now by all political and military means. The U.S. Administration and its allies are intentionally shuffling the cards in order to confuse the situation, where the returning of the Iraqi possessions from the demilitarized zone was and still is a secondary issue. He noted that this went on for several days before the current confirmation in a peaceful manner and without any problems.

The deputy prime minister reviewed the matter by saying that Iraqi citizens entered the depots without confronting anybody. This ordinary operation has been deliberately depicted as being a raid and a violation of Resolution 687. This is an intentional fabrication to confuse the situation, shuffle the cards, and prepare the atmosphere for a fresh aggression against Iraq.

The deputy prime minister added: The Iraqi airspace is not safe due to the presence of a constant violation by American and its allies planes. Iraq has pointed out to the special committee that there is a hostile aerial activity and that the Iraqi air defenses will confront these planes which violate Iraqi sovereignty, at a time when we have no objection to receiving the planes of the special committee, except that we cannot assume the responsibility of the safety of these planes because of the current situation which results from the continuation of the aggressive action against Iraq. 'Aziz affirmed that Iraq is exercising its legitimate right to self-defense and defense of national sovereignty against this flagrant aggression.

He said that the U.S. and its allies were deliberately distorting the Iraqi stance in an attempt to shuffle the cards and depict Iraq as though it was challenging the United Nations and violating its resolutions. He added that Iraq has no intention of challenging the United Nations or violating its resolutions.

'Aziz pointed out that Iraq has resorted to isolating the secondary issues from the main issue which is resisting the illegal no-fly zone, thus Iraq has informed the UN of the halting of the operation of recovering the Iraqi possessions from the demilitarized zone until arriving at new arrangements.

'Aziz continued, stating Bush unexpectedly appeared yesterday on television stating that the UN had issued a warning to Iraq despite the fact that the UN had not issued this warning. Also, the UN Security Council did not meet at the time Bush had issued this unilateral and personal warning.

He said that the spokesman of special committee interpreted the Iraqi position as rejection while at the same time this was not more than careful clarification of the position.

He said we have received a signal today in which they included Iraq's responsibility for safeguarding the activities of the special committee. They said that Iraq's position is a violation or a renunciation of its commitments, when in fact this was untrue as this question is not the issue because the arrangement agreed between Iraq and the special committee took place before the imposition of the air embargo.

'Aziz said that this Iraqi stance is not a renunciation of its responsibilities in securing the safety of the committee in Iraq, then how can we provide security and safety to its planes in such circumstances? But, when people arrive we will provide all safety and security.

He added that we want to isolate the secondary issues from the main subject. While we challenge and resist the no-fly zone, we do not want to mix between the legitimate struggle of the Iraqi people and government against the colonial measure in connection with the imposition of the no-fly zone in the south and secondary issues with the UN.

Replying to a question on the violation by an Iraqi plane in the no-fly zone and its subsequent downing, and whether this signals the start for resisting the no-fly ban, 'Aziz said that the Iraqi plane was flying in Iraqi airspace. He said we cannot abandon our legitimate right to sovereignty; therefore, the American planes' attack on our planes is an act of aggression. We have not and will not accept or recognize the imposition of the illegal no-fly zone on Iraq. At that time, he said we shall resist it and choose the time and the suitable means for that.

On the double standards adopted in passing and interpreting Security Council resolutions, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz said that Resolution 799 shows this question of double

standards very clearly. For while the United States and its allies are not seeking to implement this resolution and force Israel to take back the [deported] Palestinians, we find them interpreting Resolution 688, which makes no mention of no-fly zones, in a way that entitles them to impose such a zone on Iraq and carry out raids over it if Iraq objects.

He made clear that this was not a UN action, but imperialist aggression and an act of belligerence by powers that are using their power to impose their control over the world.

Answering a question on Iraq's preparations for any new attacks that may be expected during the remaining few days of Bush's administration, he said we are ready to respond to any attack.

On the subject of the blockade against Iraq, the deputy prime minister said that imposing the blockade on Iraq was a crime that was leading to tragic consequences in more than one area. He pointed out that the achievements made by Iraq, despite the harsh conditions brought about by the blockade, have been stupendous and truly reflect the Iraqi people's determination to defy injustice and aggression and to carry on with their own revival.

He said the Iraqi people are determined to resist the blockade and seek ways and means that will enable them to continue with their livelihood, face up to aggression, and carry on with their program of advancement, even under a state of siege.

Referring to statements made by U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton, 'Aziz said if the main aim of President Clinton was the implementation of UN resolutions, we will discuss all aspects of implementing these resolutions in a constructive and practical manner. Provided there is objectivity in reviewing Iraq's record in implementing these resolutions, I do not expect there would be any disagreement, he said. What happened in the past was that the Bush administration did not take any notice of the smooth continuity in implementing UN resolutions and its policy was simply to inflict harm on Iraq.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz also pointed out that over the last two years, interference by the Bush government and its allies, especially the British, had created many problems.

In this context, he cited statements made by Rolf Ekeus, head of the special committee [not further identified], who said Iraq had implemented 95 percent of its commitments.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz posed the question whether there was any need for treating Iraq in this way. If Iraq had implemented 95 percent of its commitments, why should it be treated in this way by America and its allies? Is this a follow up of the implementation of UN resolutions or is it the Western policy toward Iraq?

Flights' Safety Conditionally Ensured

JN1601222393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2125 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Iraq has consented to permit incoming flights by the UN Special Commission and to ensure their safety on the condition they come from the west and use the direct flight route between Amman, or any other point in Jordan, and al-Habbaniyah. Iraq also reiterated its decision to permit planes hired by the Special Commission to come to Iraq on a case-by-case basis by using al-Habbaniyah Airport, in accordance with the arrangement already being followed.

A Foreign Ministry memorandum forwarded to the commission, in response to its memorandum sent yesterday regarding notification of the plane's flight plan, said that this decision by Iraq clearly indicates permission for the C-160 planes hired by the commission to fly into Iraq in accordance with flight plans filed for 17, 18, 19, and 20 January 1993 and as spelled out in the schedule attached to the commission's memorandum.

The Foreign Ministry's memorandum made it clear that as a result of the sustained military aggression now targeting Iraq, and out of Iraq's right to exercise self-defense, Iraq reiterates that it will not be held responsible for the safety of any planes flying in its airspace.

The memorandum added: Iraq's obligations, as to ensuring the security and safety of Special Commission personnel, were made before the United States, Britain, and France imposed an air exclusion zone south of the 33d [as heard] parallel, and before the armed military aggression now being committed against Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Iraq emphasized that it is not abdicating its obligations in this regard and that it will ensure the safety of UN personnel when they are on Iraqi territory. However, the circumstances of the current armed aggression dictated that Iraq ask that the commission take responsibility for the safety of its planes.

Iraq indicated that the interpretation of its 15 January response as being a rejection of the notification of the Special Commission, as well as an abdication of its obligations, is a misrepresentation of its position. At the same time, Iraq hopes that commission personnel will [not] allow themselves to be used by the nations committing aggression to attain their own aims against it, which have nothing to do with UN aims or Resolution 687.

Ministry Memo on Flights Safety

JN1701122193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0926 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Excerpts] United Nations, 17 Jan (INA)—Iraq has consented to permit incoming flights by the UN Special Commission and to ensure their safety on the condition they come from the west and use the direct flight route between Amman, or any other point in Jordan, and al-Habbaniyah. Iraq also reiterated its decision to permit

planes hired by the Special Commission to come to Iraq on a case-by-case basis by using al-Habbaniyah Airport, in accordance with the arrangement already being followed.

A Foreign Ministry memorandum forwarded to the commission, in response to its memorandum sent yesterday regarding notification of the plane's flight plan, said that this decision by Iraq clearly indicates permission for the C-160 planes hired by the commission to fly into Iraq in accordance with flight plans filed for 17, 18, 19, and 20 January 1993 and as spelled out in the schedule attached to the commission's memorandum. [passage omitted] The following is the text of the memorandum:

The Foreign Ministry/Republic of Iraq sends its greetings to the Special Commission. In reference to the message of Mr. Pierce Cordan [name as received], vice executive chairman of the Special Commission, dated 15 January 1993, addressed to Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, and attached to it the Special Commission's memorandum regarding notification of the flight plan of the plane, C-160, hired by the Special Commission, filed for 17, 18, 19, and 20 January 1993, the Foreign Ministry would like to stress the following points:

1. We would like to tell you once again that Iraq has consented to permit the planes hired by the United Nations to come to Iraq on a case-by-case basis by using al-Habbaniyah Airport in accordance with the arrangement already being followed. This clearly indicates permission for the C-160 plane hired by the Special Commission in accordance with flight plans filed for 17, 18, 19, and 20 January 1993 and as spelled out in the schedule attached to the above mentioned Special Commission's memorandum.

2. Iraq is currently being exposed to a military aggression by the warplanes of the United States, Britain, and France. As a result of this continuous military aggression, Iraq is compelled to exercise its natural right of self-defense. Such a situation, resulting from the U.S.-British-French military aggression, certainly threatens the safety of flights in general in Iraq's airspace. It is not Iraq who caused this serious situation. In fact, it is a victim of it. Based on all this, we reiterate that Iraq will not be held responsible for the safety of any planes flying in its airspace.

3. Iraq's obligations, referred to in the Special Commission's memorandum, dated 15 January 1993—the memorandum addressed to the UN Security Council—as to ensuring safety and security, were made before the United States, Britain, and France imposed an air exclusion zone south of the 32d parallel, and before the armed military aggression now being committed against Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

4. Iraq's reply does not mean that it is abdicating its obligations in this regard. Saying that Iraq does not ensure the safety of UN personnel is incorrect. Iraq

ensures the safety of UN personnel when they are on Iraqi territory. However, the circumstances of the current actual armed aggression dictated that Iraq asks the Special Commission take responsibility for the safety of its planes.

5. In light of this, the interpretation of Iraq's 15 January 1993 response as being a rejection of the notification of the Special Commission, as well as an abdication of its obligations, is a misrepresentation of Iraq's position.

Although the aforementioned Iraqi position is clear and just, despite the serious dangers Iraq and its people are being exposed to as a result of the continuous military aggression by the U.S., British, and French warplanes, and in order to foil the pretexts which are being fabricated to justify the aggression against Iraq, and to falsely depict the issue as being a confrontation between Iraq and the United Nations, Iraq consents to permit incoming flights by the UN Special Commission and to ensure their safety on the condition they come from the west and use the direct flight route between Amman, or any other point in Jordan, and al-Habbaniyah. The Special Commission should inform us of the date set for the plane's entry into Iraq's airspace from the border point, and of the time the flight will take from entry time until arrival at al-Habbaniyah Airport. This also applies to the plane's return during its flights for the days spelled out in the schedule attached to the Special Commission's memorandum of 15 January 1993. We hope that the Special Commission will not allow itself to be used by the states committing aggression against Iraq to attain their own aims against it, which have nothing to do with the UN aims or Resolution 687 of 1991.

Reportage on Events Leading Up to 17 Jan Raid

Gunners Ordered To Fire

NC1601101793 Paris AFP in English 0946 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Jan 16 (AFP) - Iraq has ordered its anti-aircraft defences to open fire against all "enemy aircraft" violating its airspace, airforce commander General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan said in statements published Saturday [16 January]. He also told the Defence Ministry newspaper AL-QADISIYAH there was "no need for a foreign (military) presence in the region."

"Our anti-aircraft defences and our aviation will open fire against all enemy aircraft which will violate our airspace, be it in the north or the south of Iraq," where allied warplanes patrol no-fly zones, Muzahim said. [passage omitted]

Baghdad has activated its anti-aircraft radars after Wednesday's allied air strike against missile sites in southern Iraq. The Pentagon said that only one of four batteries targeted in the raid was destroyed.

The government newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH meanwhile said Saturday that Iraq rejected the "use of force

and threats" against it and was open to "dialogue" as a way of solving crises. But it added: "Iraqi leaders are not ready to bargain or give in no matter what price they could be forced to pay." [passage omitted]

Aircraft Said Failed To Reach Targets

JN1601102793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0927 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, has stressed that the U.S., British, and French planes did not succeed in reaching their targets inside Iraq. He said that many of these targets were not hit.

Al-Hasan told the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH that our air defenses are always ready to attack the targets that enter Iraq's airspace. He said: Our air defense units and aircraft will confront the enemy planes in the homeland's skies whether in southern or northern Iraq. He described foreign flights in Iraq's airspace as an unjustified action. He said: We will not accept these attempts to defile our national airspace. Muscle-flexing has never intimidated, nor will it ever intimidate, our Air Force fighters or the ordinary citizen.

The commander of the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense did not rule out that the planners of the new aggression against Iraq had a premeditated intention to strike at civilian areas and residential quarters. He recalled the claims of the commanders of the aggressive states' forces that in this operation, they used the most sophisticated military technology and smart bombs.

Al-Hasan said: We have our own experience in the Mother of Battles, during which the enemies premeditatedly attacked residential areas, clinics, hospitals, markets, and bedouin camps. Later, they justified their actions as a deficiency in the weapons.

He said that the confusion and panic of the enemy pilots might have forced them to drop their bombs on civilians.

Defenses Make 'Enemy' Planes 'Flee'

JN1601180893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1738 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—Our aircraft and air defenses today confronted enemy planes over Mosul, northern Iraq, and forced them to flee. Following is the text of a military spokesman's statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The great people of Iraq, who stand today under the banner of Allahu Akbar [God is Great] carried by the heroic leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, have faith in God as a genuine people who know how to safeguard their independence from the forces of colonialism and Zionism, and how to protect their soil and wealth from coveters.

The advocates of freedom, progress, and civilization expose themselves as merely bestial scoundrels and criminals who trade in wars and disregard human blood, freedom, and security for the sake of false and illegitimate interests.

Thus, our great people continue their blessed jihad mission. As the aggressors reveal their grudge, the faith in the hearts of the faithful mujahidin becomes more shining. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Men said to them: A great army is gathering against you; and frightened them but it only increased their faith. They said: For us God sufficeth and He is the best disposer of affairs. [Koranic verse]

Our falcons and the brave men of our air defenses continue to confront the enemy planes, as follows:

1. At 1155 [0855 GMT] on 16 January 1993, our interceptor planes were ordered to immediately take off toward the enemy planes over the city of Mosul. As our planes headed toward the enemy planes, they fled.

2. At 1348 today, our interceptors [mutasadiyatina] were ordered to head toward enemy aircraft over the city of Mosul. Those enemy planes also fled.

3. At 1650 today, our Air Defense fired at an enemy target in Badush area, north of Mosul, forcing it to flee.

Blessed be the heroic mujahidin in our Air Force and Air Defense and may God grant them splendid victory, God willing.

'Izzat Ibrahim Decries West

NC1601213593 Paris AFP in English 2107 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Jan 16 (AFP) - Iraq's Air Force and anti-aircraft guns repulsed "enemy" planes in the country's north three times Saturday [16 January], a military spokesman said on the eve of the Gulf war's second anniversary.

In Washington, Pentagon officials said U.S. and coalition fighters had come under fire from Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery for two consecutive days as they patrolled the northern and southern no-fly zones. [passage omitted]

A senior Iraqi official Saturday slammed the West's double standards regarding Muslims, saying Westerners "occupy Palestine, kill Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and children in Somalia."

'Izzat Ibrahim, vice president of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, urged the Arabs and Muslims to unite to face the West which he charged "sows sedition in each independent country." [passage omitted]

Spokesman: Air Defenses Intercept 'Enemy' Targets

JN1701121793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have just received the following:

A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the second anniversary of the eternal epic of the Mother of Battles, during which right triumphed over falsehood, and thus was a minaret for mankind and a glaring light which destroyed the strongholds of oppression and oppressors—during this eternal anniversary which will continue forever to be the symbol of the Arab heroism of Iraq's people and their Armed Forces through their efforts and jihad, and throughout whose chapters they proved to the whole world that the aggressors' positions and concentrations, when confronted by a strong will and faith, inevitably will collapse. Thus, the barbaric treacherous force has collapsed and God has granted righteous victory to the Iraqi mujahidin, and ignominy and defeat to the infidels who sought to extinguish the light of faith which comes from the land of civilizations and the cradle of prophets and heavenly messages. However, God would not allow but His light should be perfected and the believers should triumph. We will, without doubt, help our apostles and those who believe, both in this world's life and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth. [koranic verses]

Our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their confrontation of the forces of oppression and aggression with high morale. Our units' activities have been as follows:

1. At 1000 [0700 GMT] today, our air defenses intercepted enemy targets at the Saddam Dam in Mosul, causing the enemy targets to flee.
2. At 1005, our air defenses intercepted other enemy targets in the same abovementioned area, causing the enemy targets to flee.
3. At 1030, our fighter planes chased an enemy air target in Ninawa Governorate, causing it to flee.

God bless the heroic men of our Air Force and Air Defenses. May God lend them a splendid victory.

[Dated] 17 January 1993

Second Anniversary of Gulf War Commemorated

Commemorative Events Announced

JN1601165393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In observance of the second anniversary of the 30-state aggression against Iraq, traffic will come to a complete standstill for five minutes at 0800 tomorrow, Sunday, throughout Iraq. Complete silence will be observed to mark the 2d anniversary of

the outrageous 30-state aggression on Iraq. Shouts of "God is Great" will pour from minarets and church bells will be rung at the same time in reverence to the righteous martyrs who fell during the Mother of Battles.

The first hour of official duty tomorrow at all Iraqi schools, institutes, and colleges will be devoted to marking the outrageous 30-state aggression on Iraq. On this occasion, speakers will dwell on the courageous jihad stance of the Iraqi leadership and people, as displayed during their confrontation of this malicious aggression.

During this hour, speeches will be delivered on the dimensions of this malicious aggression and also on the evil intentions harbored toward Iraq and the Arab nation, as well as against mankind at large, by its perpetrators. Speakers will also explain the meanings of the steadfastness of the Iraqi people. They will speak about their high level of readiness to confront the enemies and defy them in order to vindicate their dignity and national sovereignty under the unique leadership of his excellency struggler President Saddam Husayn.

Also tomorrow, Sunday, artillery will be fired at all prayer times in Baghdad and the Iraqi governorates to mark the second anniversary of the outrageous 30-state aggression on Iraq. The state departments, the establishments of the socialist and mixed sectors, as well as plants and production and service facilities will work an extra hour tomorrow, Sunday, to mark the occasion. This is the contribution of production facilities in reply to the outrageous U.S. imperialist-Zionist aggression and the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq. Besides, it will also be an effort meant to support the reconstruction drive currently in full swing in Iraq.

Assembly Session Held 16 Jan

JN1601193493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] The National Assembly held a session under Speaker Sa'kdi Mahdi Salih today to mark the second anniversary of the historic showdown of the eternal Mother of Battles, which the Iraqis waged against the forces of evil and aggression in defense of the Arab nation's honor and dignity. The session was opened with a Koranic recitation. Then, Assembly members read the opening chapter of the Koran to evoke God's mercy on the souls of those who are more noble than all of us, the martyrs of great Iraq.

Afterward, Assembly Speaker Sa'kdi Mahdi Salih delivered a speech, dwelling on the meanings of pride and loftiness cherished by the heroic Iraqi people. He also elaborated on the Iraqi people's constant jihad, as displayed in their historic showdown of the eternal Mother of Battles against the idols of the age, the shredders of peoples' blood, and the plunderers of their resources and wealth.

Sa'kdi Mahdi Salih explained that eternal battles have not only confirmed the soundness of the slogans upheld by

the Ba'th Party and its great leader Saddam Husayn prior to the start of the showdown. Indeed, these battles showed the falsehood and hypocrisy of the U.S. Administration, as well as its attempts to plunder peoples' resources and keep them hostage to backwardness and subservience. Besides, these battles, Salih noted, have unleashed the steel Iraqi will demonstrated when the Iraqis chose to defy the wishes of the U.S.-Zionist idol. This defiance has lent further strength to all oppressed nations, he added. Salih asserted that the continued aggression on Iraq is not based on any legal or ethical grounds. Indeed, it is only prompted by an ingrained malice toward the Iraqi people and their leader, under whom the creative potentials of Iraqis have been unleashed, as he allowed their potential for jihad, construction, and progress to turn into action and deeds.

Afterward, several poets recited poems. Several Assembly members sang popular songs, singing the praises of the wise leadership of his excellency struggler President Saddam Husayn. The songs also extolled the Iraqis' heroic feats as well as the generous sacrifices they made during the great showdown of the Mother of Battles, which they, along with all honorable people all over the world, waged against the treacherous 30-state alliance in defense of the Arab nation's honor and the security and sovereignty of great Iraq.

Saddam Husayn Anniversary Speech

JN1701152293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1232 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to mark the second anniversary of start of the Gulf war on 17 January; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Those before them did also devise plots, but in all things the master-planning is God's. He knows the doings of every soul, and soon will the unbelievers know who gets home in the end. [Koranic verses]

O great people, O stalwart men of our valiant Armed Forces, O sons of the nation of Arabs, O believers in Islam as a creed of right and renewed action by its guidance, wherever you are: After relying on God, I address you all and say: Peace be upon you.

In talking about the Mother of Battles, one finds it difficult to find where to begin, and the difficulty increases as we delve deeper into its causes and effects, reviewing in the process the great deeds and grave events that interspersed these causes and effects. This is because the Mother of Battles is like a large sea with a vast shore, easily accessible, and on which sailing is smooth, to the extent that every point on the coast of this great sea tempts one to set sail from it. Therefore, anyone who makes up his mind to set sail on this sea and talk about the meaning of this immortal confrontation gets confused. This is because the Mother of Battles, whether at

its outset or at any point in it, is not history. It is the present and future of the life of the nation and the life of the great people of Iraq. It is not only a war or a fight, but it encompasses life as a whole. Nor is it simply an action; it also includes thinking and vision.

Brothers: Two years ago, all the children of Iraq woke up terrified by the hissing of treacherous snakes and cawing of crows and whistling of thieves, the enemies of God and the followers of the devil.

For, 17 January 1991 was the date set to use force by the regimes and states of treachery, treason, vileness, and the 30-state aggression. They thought that God would not see them at that hour. However, even if the neighborhood's vigilantes fell asleep by chance, God does not sleep. God watches from high every small and big affair in the universe he fashioned. Since God Almighty stands against every treacherous, infidel, ungrateful, and vindictive tyrant, He extinguished their fire with his light, and thus made their fire cool on the Iraqis, just as He made fire cool on Abraham, may God's peace be upon him.

Hence, two years ago, the aggressors' military aggression began. In conformity with the normal conduct of the cowardly and malicious toward caged lions, they used their technological edge to cause harm, avoiding direct confrontation and clashes on the battlefield, except in rare cases. Thus, their lowly acts were an embodiment of their disgraceful intentions and objectives. Each of them showed his background, his present, his tendencies, as well as his future outlook. They came to disturb the sleep of sweet Iraqi children and frighten them, and to make glorious Iraqi women and the elderly wake up to the roars of evil. Despite all of their miserable claims, their acts have failed to find an excuse other than taking the bag from its legitimate owners and returning it to a thief like them, one exactly like them in his ethics and conduct, a thief installed as a ruler to cut off a people from their origins and roots, to tamper with the citizens' lives and interests in an extremely inhumane manner, and to spend the people's funds on his illicit pleasures—funds which he stole in broad daylight, having deposited a considerable part of them in Western safes and banks. His personal cash stash in Western banks at the time, as acknowledged by the Westerners themselves, totaled \$60 billion, not to mention other deposits and investments he has in other parts of the world.

This took place and continues to take place at a time when multitudes of Arabs and Muslims continue to suffer from hardship. Indeed, they are dying of extreme hunger and sickness. However, those who profess to be advocates of religion fail to blink an eye or to experience qualms of conscience while they continue to lavish funds on the enemies of Islam, the enemies of Arabs, and also on their illicit pleasures, even though their Arab brethren are going to bed hungry. For us God sufficeth, and He is the best disposer of affairs. [Koranic verse]

On that long dark night, the night of 16-17 January 1991, there was a division between right and falsehood. Goodness, virtue, and jihad were at their best. In contrast, evil appeared at its worst and ugliest. The disparity was wide. The globe turned into two halves, separated by a wide gap the moment their destructive missiles began to fall. These missiles were timed to be followed by 3,000 planes, which all came to hit Baghdad, the city of faith and glory.

On this night, all the faith, honor, courage, compassion, principles, and values became available, or came together in Baghdad; Baghdad hosted them after they came there from every place. Thus, the battle in which weapons were used began after being preceded by the battle of siege, as well as the political, intelligence, and media battles that accompanied it.

O Iraqis, the sons of the Arab nation in every place, particularly in Kuwait: When man experiences difficult circumstances, the first thing he should do is to assimilate the lessons that can be learned from such circumstances. Among the most difficult circumstances the Kuwaitis had experienced were those which preceded the day of the call on 2 August 1990. Brothers, perhaps you remember what took place and you can assimilate that lesson and benefit from it. Many affairs would not have reached the level they reached if the agent al-Sabah family responded to that strong, explicit warning we delivered at the Baghdad summit conference on 28 May 1990, and which we repeated on the revolution anniversary on 16 July the same year. Had they studied the contents of our foreign minister's memorandum to the Arab League one day before that date, I believe you have not forgotten, and I assume that those concerned with the pertinent developments would not forget—they are dutybound not to forget—Jabir al-Ahmad's recommendation to Sa'd al-'Abdallah at the instructions of his masters at the time, that he must avoid any possible agreement with the vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Iraq during the Riyadh negotiations, which were held on 30 July that year to settle the dispute. This recommendation was revealed by the irrefutable documents which became famous and on which Sa'd al-'Abdallah based his behavior during the negotiations, thus making them yield no results. I say that had those concerned officials thought about what al-Sabah had done, away from the influence of the foreigner and the malevolent and impudent inclinations they harbor, matters would not have taken that direction and would not have reached that result. Thus, all those who look to the future and aspire for stability will realize that the mass killing of Iraq's children and the death of many of its sons from all ages, nay their martyrdom as a result of the shortage of food and medicines; the bringing in of the foreigner and having him take up positions on Kuwaiti territory, making of this land a base for machinations and aggression as he had done before and is doing now; and the involvement in this crime to such a great extent, will not achieve stability and security and will never achieve these results or bring peace of mind to anyone.

We doubt that those who did not learn the sound lessons from the signs, warnings, and the events that preceded 2 August 1990 and did not wish to benefit from these lessons, will be willing to deduce a sound lesson from the not too distant past and present incidents to opt for the correct decision for dealing with Iraq and the Arab nation. This requires that the Kuwaiti people play their role so that they will practically be in the position of responsibility and direct stands and policies in a manner that achieves their own welfare as well as the welfare of their Arab nation, and avoid anything that harms them.

The ages of those living today will not extend to the entire future, no matter how long they live. The interests of people last longer than those of rulers who have linked their destiny to the interests of foreigners, and even have linked themselves to the wishes, hatred, and policies of individual foreign officials. Some in Kuwait or elsewhere may say that the Iraqis in Baghdad have made a mistake because in their policies after 2 August 1990 they grouped the ruled and ruler in the same basket. It is high time for me to tell you as a testimony for the present and history, and to relieve the conscience of believers among you, O Kuwaitis, your brothers in Baghdad have never placed you in the same basket with the deviationists and traitors, the Croesus of al-Sabah family. Moreover, they have never ignored your role in shouldering responsibility now and in the future. However, the nature and circumstances of events and the miscalculation of those politicians who were possible to contact at that time, and the inability to contact others ruled out the assumption of known Kuwaiti personalities to the responsibility of dealing with the circumstances.

If there is any criticism to be directed at the behavior of some of those who harmed the people of Kuwait, we would like to point out two points with which we help whoever needs help so that he will see things as they truly are. The first point, which is perhaps known to some of you, particularly those who were in Kuwait and stayed there, is that the measures by the officials who had had the honor of conveying Baghdad's message to the people of Kuwait were serious toward those who deviated from the path of principles and that these measures of right had been implemented in public against those who harmed some Kuwaitis or seized their money. You may remember that the body of an officer with the rank of colonel continued to hang for some time after he was executed in implementation of a sentence passed by an authorized martial court after he offended the people of Kuwait. There are others whom you know. You also know how the law was applied to them very seriously. This is the real face of Baghdad. This is the face of Baghdad which you know. These are the principles of Baghdad, which seized every possible opportunity to put principles in their right perspective.

The second point that should be mentioned is that any incidents that occurred contrary to the principles of Baghdad were perpetrated by people who had harmed Baghdad itself when they harmed their people in al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, al-Basrah, Maysan, and Dhi Qar as

part of the scheme of aggression in which the Iranian rulers played their known role in the chapter of treachery and treason. If there were bad deeds, they were of the same type and by elements belonging to the same traitorous and deviationist trends. These elements are directed by the same quarters antagonizing Iraq and for the same purposes sought in some other parts of Iraq. These misdeeds were carried out by people who harmed us and you at the same time. What was inflicted on you by these elements was also inflicted on al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, Karkuk, al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, and other Iraqi cities.

At the same time, you know that others who do not bear Iraqi nationality seized the accidental opportunity at that time and committed vandalism and sabotage, causing harm. They blamed their deeds on those who bear Iraqi nationality. Also, there were others who faced the Armed Forces in Kuwait by shooting at them, incited by parties known to you. It was natural in such a situation that the Armed Forces would reply in self-defense.

Therefore, brothers in Kuwait, you should ponder all this to come up with the correct conclusions regarding the conduct and sentiments of love and brotherhood in God, nationalism and the homeland which your brothers in Baghdad bear toward you. The Iraqis are your brothers in good and bad times, in the past, at present, and in the future. Our people are one people. Our nation is one nation. These facts cannot be negated by the policy of those who have imposed themselves on Kuwait, the agents of the foreigners who daily harm the Arab nation. Those same agents have always harmed the Arab nation, in the past, at present, and in the future, in terms of civilization and spirituality. They have also harmed Iraq and the Kuwaitis in particular.

You should remember and not forget that the deviationists and traitors of the al-Sabah family are behaving toward Kuwait not in accordance with the responsibility of decisionmakers, and not even out of the responsibility enjoyed by citizens. They are acting as if they had rented Kuwait for some time to achieve their ambitions and the ambitions of their masters in a manner harming both people and history.

Perhaps you have not forgotten how, when things warranted sacrifices, they left Kuwait without doing the minimum they should have if they were truly responsible people. They behaved toward Kuwait and the people of Kuwait in a way similar to one who breaks his lease. They did not even bid the Kuwaitis farewell or promise to meet them again. People who act in such a manner, and anyone who lets his little daughter study at the hands of the Americans and tell her to make up the story of the incubators—as done by a member of al-Sabah family who was uncovered by God—are not unlikely to falsify facts and make up stories to harm your kinsfolk in Baghdad.

Without getting into details, we say that God is the arbiter between both of us. God knows one's true intentions and bears witness to them. God is stronger than everybody.

O fraternal sons of our people in Kuwait: Beware of the scheme of the deviationists which they are implementing to turn people into their lackeys on the path of evil. None of you should imitate the rulers imposed on you, nor look on Kuwait and the future the way those deviationists of al-Sabah do. God forbid that your relationship with Kuwait be similar to that of a tenant to an estate. You should be the owners of the land and part of a deep-rooted people and a great nation. Look toward the future, and overcome what seems to you negative according to the present circumstances.

Neocolonialism seeks to turn Kuwait into a mere oil well to be depleted, rather than a territory for the people. Toward this end, they have begun to distill fear into the people's hearts regarding the future to make them harbor mistrust and doubts about Baghdad, Cairo, and Palestine, all to make them nurse enmity toward the Arabs, who have made immense contributions to Kuwait, and consequently to prompt them to leave Kuwait and to even prompt some of the Kuwaitis themselves to emigrate from the country, having planted within their hearts concern about the future, and out of a desire to seek peace. In the meantime, another part of the people is being forcibly deported, after the al-Sabah family has divided the people into pure Kuwaitis and stateless Arabs [Kuwayti bidun]. Thus, after it is emptied of its people and brothers, members of the same nation, Kuwait will become as planned, merely an oil reservoir and a meeting place for foreigners of various nationalities so that they may exploit its oil and give its kinsfolk only what their strategy and interests allow. As for you, O Kuwaitis, you will merely be honored guests, not to be consulted if in attendance and not to be waited for if absent. Thus, you will lose the future. As for the people who have neither a future nor a present of which to be proud, and who are not a living part of their nation, they cannot be deemed a genuine people, even if they have in their possession all the oil resources of the world.

At present, the interests of the Kuwaiti rulers converge with the imperialist interests of certain Western countries, as has always been the case. Instead of dealing with these complexes in their natural context, the Kuwaiti rulers, as instructed by the Westerners, are turning Kuwaiti nationals into a mere company producing oil for the al-Sabah family and its masters to prevent them from becoming a people capable of exercising their free will. They have started to rob Kuwait of its population density under various pretexts, thus denying you the chance to manage your affairs properly.

The criminals have gone too far in the policy of neutralizing memory through the perpetration of new crimes and the creation of new complexes that are forcing more Kuwaitis and fraternal Arabs to leave Kuwait and seek out other places where they can find peace and better

opportunities for a decent living. Consequently, the territory will be emptied of its kinfolk, who will be replaced by foreigners. Therefore, the al-Sabah family's emirate will turn into a mere province meant to provide cover for the West's control over it.

To consummate the organized process of isolation from the nation and the homeland, they began to torture Arabs there and to take as close companions, by way of various means, Zionists and Westerners. The picture is so alarming that the Zionist usurpers have become brothers in economy and destiny to them, that Arabs have become their enemies, and that Western names have begun to replace placenames such as Arab Baghdad and other Arab names which are reminiscent of the one nation and of a common destiny.

However, they will discover now and in the future that these actions have not attained their objective, that they will not obliterate the facts of history, and will not bury the genuineness of the people. The people in Kuwait, after discovering the facts as they really are, will be among the first to rebel against injustice, subservience, and agency. The Kuwaiti people will discover what is false and what is genuine, and they will know that those who tampered with Iraq during the chapter of treachery and treason and others are the same who harmed them in Kuwait at the instructions of the same quarters, which organized the operation of harm and destruction in the chapter of treason and treachery, and the others who stand behind them. Those who have principles only want more pride and prosperity for our people in Kuwait; prosperity and pride which bring with them sublime meanings, permanent stability, safety, and effectiveness without any foreign control over Arab will and land.

The officials from the al-Sabah family have lost everything, including the objective ability to tackle the present and to approach the future. The best example of what we say is their behavior in the UN Security Council after all that has taken place, when they paid bribes for the recognition of their expansionist attempts at the expense of the land of your brothers in al-Basrah Governorate, and on the basis of the opportunity that was given to them by circumstance. They were not content with the rights they had usurped. They persisted in their wrongdoing, as if the entire future depends on their desires and on the opportunity which the foreigner has provided them.

Brothers, shoulder your responsibilities, struggle to secure the present and keep the doors to the future open to you in a honorable and proud manner. Resist the conduct of the bad men of the al-Sabah family and remember God's rights, and the rights of the homeland and the nation. Thus, you will live secure, reassured, and proud; owners of the house and the decision.

Brother Arabs, brothers in humanity, lofty Iraqis, when everything in life becomes impaired, comprehensive and radical changes become of the utmost importance and should be accompanied by factors of encouragement and

incentives to expedite actions and steps along the road to salvation, where everything corrupt will need replacement and cannot suffer any delay before it is replaced, except for what is dictated by jihad, struggle, and the sacrifices that the forces of good can offer.

Upon examining every angle, activity, and position in today's world, we will find out that it has become exactly like this, whether in concept or work and in the political, social, cultural, economic, or other spheres. This is the condition of our nation in most centers of representation and decision. All this imbalance in mankind or nation preceded the Mother of Battles in existence and the signs pointing to it. The Mother of Battles would have not taken place had the situation been different. However, there was no agreement on this situation between the masses and people in power, on both the national and international levels. The Mother of Battles came with its pan-Arab, humanitarian, faithful, sincere spirit to play the great role of exposing this imbalance in a manner not characterized by generalities but by practical, detailed evidence in every domain. It uncovered the imbalance and its limits and domains on all humanitarian and pan-Arab levels, and even on the level of local national life. It also displayed the meanings, directions, pillars, and the plan of the sound beginning on the road of salvation, provided that everyone adapts to his national and pan-Arab circumstances without confining himself to them, but rather by opening up to other Arabs and all mankind to profoundly interact with them in a continuous manner that does not depart from any more sublime, comprehensive, profound, or accurate meanings and values.

When a full and detailed description is made of the imbalance and a solution is presented in the form of a model, change becomes not only necessary but also possible after depending on God. Mankind and our nation, in both the pan-Arab and larger international spheres, were in dire need of this model of faith, balance, capability, certainty, patience, endurance, and influence so that they would make sure that salvation is possible after believing in God Almighty and depending on Him, the wise and enlightened, and investing their material and moral potential to achieve this noble goal.

Despite the imbalance which became clear to all in the nature of the order the states dominating the world sought to impose worldwide, despite the intentions standing behind this order, and despite the exposure of the imbalance within our nation, those concerned and officials in the deteriorating quarter continue to defend the status quo and keep things as they are. They put up maximum resistance to the winds of change, using the method of counterattack because they realize that the success of the model and the vigilance of the largest strata of the masses means an end to their subversive role and an end to the illegitimate interests they represent. They also realize that in such a case, any attack must be preceded by a mental preparation of the implementation elements and the fabrication of a shake-up in the intellectual base of the opposite side. Therefore, they often

propagate with their utmost power the saying that the current age is not an age of creed but of interests. Top among those who promote this pragmatic theory are the pillars and makers of U.S. policy, and those following this policy and believing in its feasibility. By revolving in the orbit of this policy, they often divest actions of any ethical value and any ability to maintain the meanings of virtue, right, and legitimacy.

We tell all of those people that their feverish words and endeavors would not abolish ideologies, nor make them unnecessary. Such an endeavor means that they have reached the nadir of decline and decadence and imbalance, and that they have reached the nadir of mental and moral degeneration. This requires, by virtue of firm conviction, that change take place. This is because God Almighty has explained to humanity, since Adam, peace be upon him, that ideologies constitute a mental, spiritual, moral, and practical framework to ensure the continuity of mankind in accordance with a recognized balance. Humanity was not created simply to live, but to live and have faith and make faithful, honorable efforts. If this is the case as dictated by God, which is, one way or another, the case of humanity since time immemorial, how can anyone imagine that humanity can exist without faith, ideology, and ideologists.

The endeavor of the failed ones came after the argument that Western ideology was the alternative proved a failure. This also happened after the failure of communist ideology in the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact states. What they say now prompts ideologists to make additional efforts to carry out their role in facing the comprehensive historical disavowal of ideologies. In fact, what they say tells ideologists that the promise of God to grant victory to the faithful is undoubtedly coming and that it is very imminent.

Brothers and Sisters: Within the framework of the so-called new world order and America's unilateral occupation of a position along the road of evil and aggression, the Security Council, directed and even supervised and dominated by it, used to adopt resolutions bearing its name and used by its owners as a cover for the issuance of orders. The least that can be said about these orders is that they are unrelated to the UN Charter and even contrary to it.

These resolutions, though considered as gains by those who issue them because they harmed great Iraq, are shortsighted in several aspects. The most important aspect is that they have revealed to everybody that this organization has turned into a puppet in the hands of those who have the opportunity and capability and that it is subjected to their political orientations and unilateral transient interests.

Thus, these resolutions practically represent the interests and will of the minority that stands to gain, and not the states that endorsed the UN Charter, which stipulates that resolutions be issued in the names of these states and in accordance with their legitimate interests and that

which is agreed upon. The UN Charter also stipulates that these resolutions should, under all circumstances, be in harmony with the Charter in letter and spirit, form and content. Besides their violations of the UN Charter, double standards have become clear and have turned into an object of criticism and ridicule for the Security Council and the United Nations. For, there are basically no just resolutions and there is no just implementation of these resolutions in all their arenas, particularly between Arabs and the Zionist entity.

Thus, and thanks to the desire of the influential parties headed by the United States to maintain the embargo and the political boycott of Iraq, and thanks to the domination by these parties of the world body, they have chosen to threaten, without even showing a steady graduation in the passage of resolutions. Most often, there is an immediate resort to Chapter 7, to threats to use force, and even to the actual use of force, whether the issues at stake are simple issues, like those encountered during daily transactions, or big and complicated issues. It has become very easy for the United States and its allies to push the Security Council to deem any ordinary conduct an unforgivable crime, and to deem any simple issue a serious and dangerous one, whereas wisdom requires the big countries and the world organization to pursue dialogue as a means to achieve the same objective or the same host of objectives and to use pressure when dialogue fails. Wisdom requires them to resort to political, economic, or other types of pressure and to avoid the use of military pressure, except according to a normal graduation and under very special, legitimate, and pressing circumstances, which must be convincing to the public, without any misrepresentation of facts, distortion, or deception.

The boycott, the embargo, and the absence of a dialogue with Iraq have eliminated the possibility of graduation in this regard. Consequently, there has been a constant resort to Chapter 7, to threats to use force, or to the actual use of force. This has denied the world body the chance to show patience and to demonstrate concern for legitimacy to ensure its becoming a basis for its resolutions. Likewise, this has denied and will continue deny it, whenever international issues are handled, the opportunity to obtain the concerned parties' compliance with its resolutions out of conviction. If this state of affairs is maintained, compliance, if it were to be eventually obtained, it will be a compliance triggered by submission, based on the use by the adversary of its capabilities. That is, compliance will not be shown because of a desire to honor the Charter. Furthermore, it will neither be based on fair grounds, nor will it seek to achieve legitimate ends. Thus, against the background of this state of affairs, whoever is asked to meet certain commitments will most often pursue the usual means of evading commitment to what is illegitimate, unfair, and even illogical. By this, we mean the investigation of the possible achievement of a sort of capability and the seizure of some types of opportunities, regardless of any frameworks or considerations. Such a state of affairs will

cause turmoil and adversely affect security. Consequently, interstate relations as well as relations between states and the world body will be fraught with fear and doubt. Therefore, they will once again seek to affiliate themselves to groupings and blocs to avert harm and protect their rights, and also to confront this reprehensible state of affairs and the hateful neocolonialism it creates.

These methods prompted, and will prompt on the largest possible scale, the states—governments and peoples—to consider the need to protect themselves by radically changing that organization in terms of its position, role, performance, and rights to suit the interests of all the member states and humanity in accordance with firm standards and harmonious behavior, without any double standards and in a way that achieves peace throughout the world and reinforces justice, and not merely the interests of an influential, covetous, unjust, and imposed party of the world states.

Brothers and Sisters: The immortal Mother of Battles stresses, among other things, that the Arabs should unite to get rid of the drawbacks and negative aspects of any narrow ideas. They should seek the wide domains where paths become straight, vision becomes clear, power rises from within, and ability rises for the sake of obtaining honor, defending right, getting rid of self-weakness, and departing from feebleness in the face of the foreigner's conspiracies. It is not enough for any Arab to merely announce his regret about a foreigner's aggression against his brother Arab, as was the case on the night of the 13th of this month, at a time when Sweden, a foreign country, announced its denunciation and condemnation of the aggression.

We are entitled to ask: Is the effect of what we see and hear from Arab officials considering themselves part of the Arab nation equal in the confrontation to the action of the henchmen who placed their lands and skies at the disposal of the foreigner? Their regret is not like the regret of Jacob because what happened to Joseph was caused by his other sons. As for Iraq, what happened to it was a hostile, criminal aggression by a foreigner against an Arab state. This is so although some Arabs, or some of those who are counted among the Arabs, formed the tail of this aggression. When intentions are sincere in the search for an available and possible positive reaction within the framework of a pan-Arab perspective, regret will certainly not be the only available means; regret does not represent even the minimum of what can be done, unless regret is meant to be used as a means to avoid the masses' blame for this or that of the concerned people, and to absorb some of their indignation over the weak positions and those taking them.

In all cases, the expression of one's regret is certainly different from the position adopted by those who place their land and sky in the service of the foreigner to strike at Iraq. Nevertheless, this regret is not the distinguished, zealous pan-Arab position as long as it was preceded by

foreign positions defending right and its owners, even by citizens within the states that carried out the aggression.

I believe that non-Arab Sweden is not as dutybound as are Arab countries whose representatives should go beyond an expression of regret to one of deeds if they want to represent pan-Arabism and to translate the real stand of their people in a democratic and sound manner.

Sons of our great people, we believe in the unity of struggle to carry out the struggle for unity. What we seek to achieve is not the constitutional or legal form for the type of relationship among the countries of the Arab homeland. The same way in which the relationship of the one nation was formed historically and ideologically until it became one state in the past, in the same way the legal or constitutional step inevitably will be preceded by steps that will lead joint action to its inherited historical meanings, meanings which have been developed through jihad in this century. Sacrifices should come before gains are achieved, deeds should precede words, and fateful relations should intermingle to form the most sublime meanings for real sacrifice for these objectives and slogans. Faith sanctioned by constants which know no faltering should precede all hesitant phases and seasonal gusts, fragmented approaches, and any claim that does not stand fast in the face of difficult circumstances.

We want that action in which the Arab nation places its trust before form and shape are announced and before legal and constitutional formulas are worked out. It is the action of the one fate, the ongoing struggle, and the sacrifices that rise to the level of the great historical call. For this reason, it is the opposite of the technical action and the words that are repeated by some rulers from time to time on specific occasions far from the will of the people and the nation, action and words that do not go beyond being an arrangement of ornate rhetoric which is stillborn even in the minds of those who say them or sign it.

Great people, the sons of the glorious Arab nation, the Mother of Battles is the new criterion. The stand one adopts on it is the new yardstick against which one judges between the position of faith on the one side and the position of deception, infidelity, aggression, treachery, and vice on the other side. Had it not been for this valiant showdown, matters which would not have become exposed, perhaps for centuries to come, have become exposed to those who seek truth as it is so that they may build their stands upon it. Everyone now appears in his true light. The schemes concocted by Zionism and the rulers of America and those who followed their suit to tempt the peoples of the world with what is contrary to their real interests have also been exposed.

The Mother of Battles has removed part of the heavy lid that has stifled the breath of many in the world. It has exposed the false media organs and the propaganda that wraps deception in sweet talk. Man's reality, his ability, his needs, and the conditions of work and jihad that all

this entails have become more evident. Every person now acts and behaves in accordance with his weight and influence.

The day is not far off when the cover will be lifted, not only from the bodies and spirits of those under it, but also off those who hid the blemishes of their regimes under it—regimes that are proceeding along the path of degeneration—as well as those followers who won financial and ruling privileges arranged for them by their masters, although the financial gains are not theirs and the positions they occupy are not earned.

When the cover is lifted off those people, every one of them will stand naked and have to face the elements and circumstances of life. On that day, nothing will protect them from God's decree and the wrath of the masses and the judgment of history. No one will survive, save those who cling to God's most trustworthy bond that never breaks, and who cling to the faithful pan-Arab creed and accept human equality with all mankind. In such a situation, no one will be deemed better than another, except according to the criterion of God's fear and good deeds and noble efforts, regardless of race, sex, and color and the difference in objectives; and everyone will live in one tent for the one nation and on another plane that can accommodate a single humanity from the sons of Adam and Eve. Each will know his legitimate rights, and all will work together for everybody's sake. There will be no aggression and no privileges won by aggression, if it takes place. Nor will there be any usurpation of wealth or territory. Then, Palestine will be liberated and the nation will regain its rights; Iraq will secure its rights and the poor and the needy will also secure their rights to their nation's wealth from those who had exploited them for a long time. The poor and the needy will avenge themselves on those who expanded their wealth and power and influence to the degree that they started to steer the world in accordance with their narrow interests, at the expense of tortured humanity whose wealth is plundered, by using all methods of exploitation and colonialism in its old and new forms.

On this immortal day in the history of our people and nation, we declare our belief in the unity of divided nations, including the unity of our nation and people. We also wish humanity would discard the state of fragmentation in which some had submerged it. This will not happen until equality is achieved among the parties to the relationship in question, in accordance with a world order to be agreed upon, that safeguards nations from the hegemony and domination to which the big ones are accustomed—and those who are small in their minds, values, meanings and conduct—in line with material standards. Also, every illegitimate picture of West dominating East and North dominating South should be erased, since this picture leads to a hateful domination, rejected exploitation, and shameless interference in the domestic affairs of others. This is also to end the situation in which the humanity of some people dies as a result of overeating, while the humanity of others dies of starvation.

O great people; O sons of our glorious Arab nation: The Mother of Battles, the anniversary of the military aggression of which we are currently marking, is the jihad of faithful people to earn the pride of their people and their nation. It is the embodiment of their patience during jihad and the sufferings it entails to safeguard the faith embedded within their bosoms and to achieve for themselves and also for mankind at large, through them, the indispensable balance between the material and the spiritual; between the past, the present, and the future; between the ethical and moral on the one hand and tangible and common possessions on the other; between the ambitions one aspires to realize and the possible; between earth and heaven; between the devices of illumination required by the need to see in the darkness and the requirements of the morning, in terms of the devices needed to enjoy it and benefit from it; and between the present generations and future generations. This balance must be achieved within a framework of struggle that safeguards all virtues, brings novelties in the course of the endeavor to head toward the future, and provides a mainstay for the forces of goodness as well as a beacon of light and guidance along the path of right.

All this was destined to take place at a time when it is no longer sufficient to recreate the tendency of making faithful, powerful, and effective leaps by the mere recollection of the glorious past of our nation and of former generations. Similarly, it is no longer sufficient to recall the concepts of the great spiritual faith. This is because all this, if unsupported by an example from the current age, is insufficient by itself to make the Arab individual feel that he is powerful and capable of not only leading a decent life and possessing the freedom and the ability to think and decide freely, as his predecessors before him did, but also of, if he shows faith and determination, setting an example and a model for mankind, just as his predecessors before him were when they believed that faithful Arab nationalism is humanism at its best and that it is capable of becoming an effective model influencing mankind at large.

Thus has been the Mother of Battles. It is the embodiment of the nation's willingness to carry the great faith and to build the ability to show its forceful existence, seeking the assistance of Almighty God and using its position as well as its effective and influential role within mankind through its building of a new model, and also through exhibiting what needs and requires to be exhibited, seeking God's assistance, so that our nation's worthiness of this legitimate position and role may be shown to mankind and so that our nation may become a model for this age in humaneness and its proper methods, which enjoy the satisfaction of God and people after everything has been disturbed in mankind and in its present international community as well, particularly since all components of firmly established beliefs, principles, practices, sublime values, and virtues are currently experiencing a state of fluidity.

O mujahid, faithful, loyal, and courageous Iraqis; O honorable and zealous Arabs: Your role and position,

your present and future, and your effect have been the same, as we have described. As long as you are part of a fragmented nation, the national and the pan-Arab elements should intermingle. As long as we are part of the wider humanity and, since the human arena continues to be the same, as we have described it in terms of technical and scientific development in telecommunications and communications, as long as the world has this capability of communication and influence due to an expansion in the ability to communicate and intermingle, I say that as long as the human situation is such, then the national concept and the action linked to it will not remain within their local context.

All those who say that this concept and concern should remain within the national and local context are incorrect. If they have no independent, effective, and legitimate human and pan-Arab concept, then either they are puppets and subservient or they cannot carry out the simplest national duties within their local arena. There is no genuine nationalist outside the nation's framework, and no one can be as genuine a pan-Arabist as he should be if he is not as human as he should be.

Our view is based on our love for you and on our jihad, sacrifices, and efforts to build a free, honorable, and happy life for you, your sons, and your grandsons. It is based on creating a sound and real stability, one which preserves faith, rights, sovereignty, and honor; one which strengthens the people in their faith. This is the Mother of Battles. It is an unusual beginning for the new faith and the new action; it is an unusual beginning for pan-Arabism, humanism, and nationalism; and it is an unusual beginning for a model edifice that can bear the responsibility. Eternity, mercy, and paradise to the martyrs of the Mother of Battles; eternity to the martyrs of Arabism, humanity, and faith; eternity to the martyrs of Iraq; eternity to the martyrs of Iraq [repeat as heard]; eternity to the martyrs of Palestine; eternity to the martyrs of Palestine [repeat as heard]; and glory to the Mother of Battles, which gave much on the paths of jihad and construction. Long live the slogans of the Mother of Battles over the days. Let the nation's wealth be given fairly to its sons for the sake of progress, prosperity, true strength, great faith, real peace, and permanent stability. Long live Palestine free and Arab, long live Palestine free and Arab, long live great Iraq, and long live Iraq. Glory and pride to our brave Armed Forces and to the mujahidin in every field of construction and work. God is great.

O brothers, you recall that two years ago the enemy and hostile parties tried to present the chapters of the case in a tendentious, distorted, and even false manner when they told the whole world that Saudi Arabia was being threatened and that, as a result, they were compelled to close their ranks to stop the danger of the Iraqi Army. This army, they affirmed, said, and depicted, would proceed from Kuwait to Saudi Arabia.

They disseminated many rumors; thus, there will be some who will believe this calumny. To substantiate this

calumny, they forged pictures of tanks approaching the Saudi borders while our instructions at the time stated that the distance between where our military units were stationed and the borders with Saudi Arabia should not be less than 5 km. In reality, this distance between Saudi Arabia and the closest Iraqi military unit was not less than 15 km. We explained this to King Husayn in a telephone call so that he in his turn could clarify this calumny and those behind it. He could explain to them that the tanks to which the Americans and some of the frustrated Arabs referred, tanks which were at a distance from the borders less than what we have mentioned, were only eight Chieftain tanks left behind by the Kuwaiti Army; tanks which were bogged down in the sand and whose crews had deserted them and fled toward Saudi Arabia after the day of the call on 2 August 1990. In order to reassure the Saudis, we ordered that they be towed backward. By doing our best to explain the facts, we thought that we were doing something good so that people would be reassured once they became acquainted with the actual facts.

Brothers, you remember that after completing their military deployment, the criminals substituted their declared objective of a military presence on the land of the Muslims and the land of the prophet of mercy and religion, Muhammad—may God's peace and blessings be upon him—to defend Saudi Arabia to that of the so-called liberation of Kuwait. When our valiant forces withdrew from Kuwait at our orders, they replaced this objective as well. They started to announce that their military presence is intended against the regime in Iraq and not the liberation of Kuwait only. No one in the world told them that they are not sincere or that they are swindlers. Only a few officials in the world told them that they had mobilized military force and that the countries which they unjustly and aggressively brought to the land of the sanctities of the Muslims and Islam in the name of the United Nations had been brought in a manner unprecedented in history. How can they manipulate the course of events to the point of explicit lies? They persisted with their crime, their injustice, and their odious actions more and more, and started to divide Iraq's skies and territory into lines of latitude in accordance with rules that are not found in any law and on the basis of opportunity and force to ban Iraqi aircraft from overflying the skies of their own land. The threats to use force continued with regard to every minor and major issue. The blockade continued to be imposed on Iraq. This is an act of war despite the cease-fire, despite the fact that reality has exposed the falsehood of a continued threat to Saudi Arabia, and despite the withdrawal of the Iraqi Army from Kuwait. Thus, God has exposed the aggressors and their odious arrogance.

We used to believe that the objective of some of the hirelings became different from that of the masters after the withdrawal of the Iraqi Army from Kuwait. But when we realize that the armies and aircraft of the masters are still in the land of the sanctities of the Muslims without any justification, and that they fly from

there and from Kuwaiti territory to carry out reconnaissance sorties that are tantamount to military aggression against Iraqi airspace and against Iraq's sovereignty, then our doubts remain that the objectives of the hirelings have not become separate from those of the masters even in committing aggression against Iraq without any justification and in attempting to impose the reality of partitioning its land and dividing its people without any reason. The aggression on the night of 13 January has come to clarify everything. The aggression of the aggressors, with their aircraft against our land and people, and against some of our holy places, has come after their aircraft took off from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. What can the officials there say to their people about such a crime?

What will the Americans, the British, the French, and the Russians, who participated with them in the failed ultimatum and in the odious conspiracy—what can they tell their people this time and with what will they convince public opinion that their action was one carried out by someone who was compelled to do so? God Almighty has exposed them in the final chapter and exposed their mean, premeditated intentions, not only in the final chapter but also their intentions right from the very beginning. They have been exposed before the world, and the intentions of the aggression, which was premeditated before 2 August 1991, have also been exposed, along with the causes of this aggression. However, they will also fail this time to achieve their evil intentions.

All crimes of new barbarism will founder at the doorsteps of Baghdad and its sister Iraqi cities, which endured the bombardment of 3,000 planes at the start of the military chapter of the Mother of Battles up to the cease-fire, which was decided by the enemy after it has been incapable of achieving its conspiratorial aims. Baghdad, and its sister lofty Iraqi cities, from Zakho to the south of Iraq and reaching to the gate of great victory, the valiant al-Faw, will remain. God willing, bulwarks of freedom that repulse and defeat aggression. The great people of Iraq faced aggression with all their might with a faithful heart and strong belief that Almighty God will undoubtedly grant them victory. The aggressors, with all their capabilities and ground armies, could not defeat the people, cities, villages, and tribes of Iraq.

It is incredibly ridiculous for some people to imagine that the enemies can do more than calculated harm to the people of Iraq, which is willed by God, to strengthen their beliefs. The people of Iraq will not be defeated and the faithful, mujahid, persevering Army of Iraq will not be defeated. Their reappearance was faced with a blessed return on our part. God is with us and the hundreds of tonnes of bombs dropped on Iraq on the night of 13 January this year will not compensate for a result sought by the criminals through 100,000 tonnes of bombs, more than 120,000 sorties by their failed aircraft, and tens of thousands of bombs fired by the aggressors' ground forces at the Iraqis and the land of Iraq two years ago. God is with us in His meanings and values. God, for a

certain reason, landed Adam on our land in the beginning of creation. God Almighty is here and everywhere. God Almighty is here and when He safeguards Iraq and its people and dignifies them, He thus dignifies humanity at large to begin a new life, in which mankind will praise and worship God more. The plots of the plotters will fail. God is great.

O faithful, mujahidin, sacrificing, valiant, struggling, brave, loyal, glorious Iraqi men; O patient, sacrificing, glorious women, sisters of all symbols of might and glory: May you and the country of faith and fervor live long. Long live Iraq. May you and the principles, which you upheld through lavish sacrifices and which you defended so that the banner of God is Great may remain fluttering aloft, live long. May you, O Iraqi men and women live long in your nation and for your nation. O Iraqis, may you live long in humanity and for it. May you, O Iraqis, live long and may glory continue to be your lot. You have, by God, stood firm and your true metal was demonstrated in its noblest meanings as wished by a faithful leadership to its people in such an ordeal. You have stood firm during the enemies' return on the night of the 13th of this month and afterward by a praiseworthy return to jihad on a better and higher level, as can be conceived by all except those who do not see you with an open eye. You have returned to it, O delight of our eyes, dignity, sword, and support in every battle. You have returned to it, so fight them, show patience and steadfastness, for God is with the patient. By God, it is the new al-Faw battle, but this time, it will be in the Mother of Battles. It is their reappearance and we have returned to fight them. It is the gate of victory. The decisive and final chapter will also be a great victory if the enemy persists with its military aggression, or if it stops at this level. It will be the decisive chapter which will crown all chapters. So, seek God's assistance; on Him we depend. God is great, God is great, and long live our nation. God is great, God is great, and long live our nation. God is great, God is great, and long live the believers everywhere. God is great, God is great, and long live the mujahidin in our valiant Armed Forces and our great people. God is great, God is great, and long live mankind wherever a seed of good, love, faith, and justice grows in its midst. Peace be upon you and accursed be the lowly.

Demonstrations Held 17 Jan

JN1801074193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad and the governorates witnessed, since first thing this morning, demonstrations of anger and denunciation of the criminal action that was carried out by criminal Bush and his allies on the night of 16-17 January 1991, represented by their military barbaric aggression against Iraq.

The severe cold weather and [word indistinct] did not prevent the staging of demonstrations of protest at the hour when the criminals started their treacherous aggression.

Reporters and correspondents from the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Baghdad and the governorates reported on these marches in beloved Baghdad and the cities of great Iraq to declare challenge, steadfastness, and insistence on continuing the march of progress, and elevating Iraq's immortal bastion under the historic leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn.

The Iraqis, who commemorated the night of aggression with thundering shouts that condemn the aggression and those who committed it, voiced their determination to and insistence on burying all attempts of the evil ones to undermine the immortal unity of Iraq, whose steadfastness was strengthened and its potential was revealed by their symbol mujahid President Saddam Husayn.

The demonstrators raised torches as an expression of their confidence in the defeat of darkness and those who like it, and their certain faith that the jihad message of the Mother of Battles will win, and that this message will reach the whole world.

Correspondents from world news agencies, radio and television networks, and Arab and foreign press saw these roaring demonstrations, which marched through the streets of the city of glory and history toward the UN building. These correspondents were astonished to see these mammoth demonstrations which were relayed live by CNN, BBC, VISNEWS, CBS, NBC, ACN, (?BCC) television networks.

Shooting Down of Plane by 'Aggressors' Announced

JN1701164793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1610 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] We have just received the following. A military spokesman has made the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As our great people are continuing their rallies to express their adherence to the militant message of the epic and eternal Mother of Battles on its second anniversary, to voice their readiness to offer sacrifice for the sake of the great principles and the noble values which it epitomizes, and to demonstrate their rallying around its fluttering banner, the criminal enemies are continuing their cowardly actions, driven by their blind grudge, to cover their criminal actions and their failure on the great battlefield of the duel waged by the proud Iraqis with the honor of principles and the values of the message. The aggressors fired one of their treacherous missiles this morning at innocent and peaceful people in Tall al-Zalat village, affiliated with the (al-Muhallabiyah) Subdistrict, in the Tall 'Afar District of Ninawa Governorate, targeting innocent sons of our people.

2. [as heard] In continuation of their crimes and their despicable actions, which express their disappointment and clear loss, the aggressors treacherously and cowardly confronted one of our combat formations at 1230 [0930

GMT] today as it took off to carry out its sacred duty in defending Iraq's skies south of the 36th parallel. As usual, the criminals directed the arrows of their grudge at one of our jet fighters and shot it down. These crimes, of which humanity is ashamed since they represent a grudge, cruelty, and disgusting hostility, will not pass without the severest punishment. God's punishment is severe.

[Dated] 17 January 1993

Saddam Acknowledges Attack, Urges 'Strike'

JN1701200993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn "to our great people and the glorious Arab nation;" place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great people, delight of the nation's eye and its medals in faith, pride, and jihad. O sons of our glorious Arab nation: The failures have once again returned to Baghdad. They returned to the beloved, faithful, steadfast, patient city—symbol of every city of honor and zeal. They returned to the city of God is Great, carrying with them the rage of abject failure which afflicted all their previous attempts since the beginning two years ago up to the day of return on the 13th of this month. They returned to affirm the grudge of their forefathers since Salah-al-Din. They returned so that God will expose and disgrace them, humiliate their actions, and support the group of believers. Fight them, O delight of our eyes and badge of our pride and crown of every zealous believer. Strike, O brave ones. God, His messengers, angels, and soldiers are with you.

Strike, because the day of the battle has come, the day from which a sun that will never set from its axis will rise so that you, the Arabs, and all faithful people will be at the level desired for them by Almighty God, and so that you may assume the great position—the position marked by an endless faith, great glory, and a present and a future, the doors of which will open, bringing all that would satisfy faithful psyches and realize their pride, so that they may enjoy the satisfaction of God.

Strike, for God is with you. Glory to martyrs. Long live our nation. Long live Iraq. Long live Iraq. Long live Iraq as a symbol to mujahidin and as a banner that will never bow, fighting in the name of God. God is great. May the lowly be accursed.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Senior Officials

JN1701172593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1718 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting of 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council; Vice

President Taha Yasin Ramadan; Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz; and Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid.

Spokesman Denies Target Was Nuclear Facility

NC1701214893 Paris AFP in English 2140 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Jan 17 (AFP) - Iraq said Sunday's [17 January] U.S. cruise missile attack hit a mechanical engineering plant and not a nuclear facility as Washington claimed.

"It had been visited several times by U.N. inspectors and they know what it is," an Information Ministry spokesman said.

"It is not a nuclear site as Fitzwater claims. It is a mechanical engineering plant that manufactures moulds," said the spokesman. The spokesman invited foreign correspondents in Baghdad to visit the plant at midnight (2100 GMT). [passage omitted]

Reportage on Damage to Baghdad al-Rashid Hotel

Hotel Reportedly Hit By U.S.

NC1701214193 Paris AFP in English 2123 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 17 (AFP) - One woman employee was killed and more than 30 other people were wounded when the al-Rashid Hotel, base for the foreign press corps, was hit during Sunday's U.S. cruise missile attack, the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) reported.

Witnesses said the hotel, where an international Islamic conference was being held, took a direct hit from a missile.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said it was likely the hotel had been hit by Iraqi anti-aircraft fire.

INA said the attack was "aimed at civilian targets in Baghdad."

The dead woman worked in hotel reception, and three of the injured were seriously hurt, witnesses said, adding that many people were hurt by flying glass.

The injured included delegates to an international Islamic conference called here to mark the second anniversary of the start of the Gulf War.

An NBC correspondent said a room used by the network on the fifth floor of the hotel was damaged in the blast, which also wrecked cars in the parking lot.

Two Employees Said Killed

JN1701225093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2242 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Iraqi television has shown footage of the ugly crime committed by the United States when it bombed the al-Rashid Hotel tonight.

Two female employees were martyred as a result of the barbaric bombing, and 30 people were injured, including 11 members of the Third World Islamic Popular Conference, which is currently meeting in Baghdad.

INA on Casualties in Attack on al-Rashid Hotel

LD1701224893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA)—The INA working team in charge of covering the international popular Islamic conference at the al-Rashid hotel at the moment the missile struck has said that the hotel, where the evening session was being held, was one of the targets for their missiles. They were aiming to silence the voice of right and faith, in an unsuccessful attempt to cover up the utter failure of their previous strikes at steadfast Iraq. The INA working team said that those wounded so far number more than 30 people; one female hotel employee was killed.

The INA team also stated that the missile made a crater more than four meters in diameter and three meters deep.

In conversation with the INA team, the participants in the conference, representing more than 1.25 billion Muslims in 50 countries, said that this cowardly action emphasizes the hidden hatred of the infidel and the misled, as well as the legitimacy of the steadfastness of this proud people who are struggling in the name of God and the Arab and Islamic nation.

Saddam Visits Wounded

JN1701232693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2314 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: We have just received the following:

Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and watch over him, tonight visited the al-Karamah and al-Yarmuk hospitals in the bright Baghdad of God is Great.

The leader president inquired after the health of Iraqi citizens and the guests of Iraq who are participating in the Islamic Popular Conference, who were injured as a result of the barbaric, treacherous U.S. aggression that targeted the al-Rashid Hotel, some tourist facilities, and the homes of faithful Iraqis. His excellency was reassured about their health condition and safety.

The injured citizens expressed their extreme happiness over the visit of the leader of the assembly of the faithful and mujahidin, leader President Saddam Husayn. They wished his excellency long life and continued, manifest victory over the enemies of great Iraq.

His excellency the leader president instructed the medical staff at the two hospitals to take care of the citizens among the elderly, women, and children, as well as Iraq's guests of those taking part in the sixth world Islamic Popular Conference, who sustained various injuries during the barbaric aggression this evening against the capital of light, pride, and challenge—the eternal Baghdad, the Baghdad of God is Great.

Further on Saddam's Visit

LD1801002493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2330 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has visited a number of those injured by last night's American missile attack at al-Karamah and al-Yarmuk hospitals in Baghdad. The president saluted the patience of friends and brothers among the participants in the Islamic conference being held at al-Rashid Hotel, which was targeted by one of the American missiles. Among the injured were members of an Iraqi family; an American missile fell on their residence in the al-Karradah area [a residential area in the south part of Baghdad], destroying their house, a duplex, [words indistinct] and four cars in their garages. Doctors at the hospital said that some of the five members of the family, including a three-year-old girl, are in critical condition.

'Account' of Missile Attack

JN1801091893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0757 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH today provides an account of the moments leading up to and following the crash of one of criminal Bush's missiles into the al-Rashid Hotel last night.

A reporter from the paper on the scene writes that the treacherous missile hit the ground floor reception area, which also includes the restaurants, which were packed with guests taking their evening meals.

Supported by pictures, the reportage notes that the explosion wrecked a large section of the hotel's ground floor and made a big hole by a wall that collapsed on guests along with the ceilings. The blast unhinged doors and windows and caused splinters of glass to fly around.

The treacherous missile also caused damage to administrative, accounting, and services offices, turning the ground floor into heaps of smashed glass and broken concrete.

The hotel management reported that the abominable crime caused considerable damage to the building and

left two women reception employees martyred and a number of Iraqi, Arab, and foreign nationals injured, including some leading Muslim and Arab scholars. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Attends Hotel Funeral

JN1801145793 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 18 (INA)—The Iraqis today have seen off in a large funeral procession the martyrs of al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad who have been the victims of the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad last night.

The angry mourners expressed their denunciation and condemnation of the criminal act perpetrated by the American Bush administration against the Iraqi innocent civilians in its latest aggression on Iraq and pledged support and loyalty to President Saddam Husayn's leadership in its confrontation with the U.S.-led allies' aggression and conspiracies.

The funeral procession was led by Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi and senior officials.

Visits al-Rashid Hotel

JN1801163593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1505 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Revolution Command Council member, today visited the al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad which last night came under a barbaric American missile attack that resulted in the martyrdom and injury of a number of Iraqi, Arab, and foreign citizens staying in the hotel. [passage omitted]

Renovation Work on Hotel Begins

JN1801165693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—Four working teams from the companies of the Ministry of Housing and Construction this morning began work on renovating the al-Rashid Hotel, which last night came under a reckless U.S. missile attack.

The INA team covering the proceedings of the Sixth World Popular Islamic Conference, currently being held at the al-Rashid Hotel, has reported that the mujahidin of reconstruction from Taj al-Ma'arik, Ramadan Mubarak, al-Yawm al-'Azim, and al-Mu'tasim have set a period of three days to complete the renovation work.

Spokesman Says Civilian Facility Hit in Raid

LD1801015293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0045 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—An official spokesman said that the al-Nida installation at al-Zafaranah, south of Baghdad, which was targeted by American cruise missiles last night, was a civilian facility

for the production and manufacture of tools and industrial molds for both the private and socialist sectors. [passage omitted]

The spokesman told INA that residential areas around the al-Nida installation were hit by American cruise missiles, causing extensive material as well as human damage. [passage omitted]

We recall that the Bush administration has tried to justify its missile raid on the installation and other civilian areas in Baghdad, including the al-Rashid Hotel, the venue for the Islamic conference, on the basis that the al-Nida installation's activities were nuclear-related.

Spokesman Rounds Up 17 Jan Military Activities

*JN1801105193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1003 GMT 18 Jan 93*

[Unscheduled statement by an Iraqi military spokesman on 18 January]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate: Once again the evil aggressors betray the true face of the American-Zionist civilization, the message of which to the nations of the world has come to be associated with murder, injustice, and slavery. Charged with the complexities of the present and the full hatred of the past for the city of civilization and peace that has come to typify all the values of virtue and faith, the criminals wanted to extinguish this bright glow in the souls of the true faithful and their blessed assembly. They have thus incurred God's wrath and are cursed until doomsday, and returned defeated and frustrated, having been told by the great Iraqi people: Die with your resentment; you will never break the will of this old people; this people can take pride in the fact that it has on its side the assembly of the faithful and the virtuous, while they have the assembly of the infidels and the vicious on their side; and what a difference between the two, after God gave the believers permission to wage jihad to lift injustice and slavery, thus testifying to God's Koranic verse: To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged; and verily, God is most powerful, for their aid. [Koranic verse]

The outcome of the treacherous criminal act this time was as follows:

1. The aggressors launched their treacherous cruise missiles at Baghdad yesterday evening. One of their missiles hit the al-Rashid Hotel, targeting the gathering of believers from Baghdad and guests who were gathered by the word of justice and faith. This resulted in the martyrdom of two women and the wounding of 25 others, including women, old men, and hotel employees.

2. The aggressors then launched another missile at a residential area in al-Karradah, one of Baghdad's districts. Several civilian houses were demolished and five civilians, including old men, women, and children, were wounded in the attack.

3. At 2130 [1830 GMT] yesterday, a number of the aggressors' missiles fell on the al-Nida' Enterprise. This is an enterprise for known civilian purposes and was visited by the UN inspection teams many times.

Let the hands of criminals be paralyzed; let them be disappointed; and let their trickery and acts be a shame on them.

Mercy and forgiveness for our martyrs; swift recovery for our wounded, God willing; and splendid victory for our faithful and mujahid gathering, with God's help.

[Dated] 18 January 1993

Commentary Reacts to U.S. Statements on Attack

*JN1801111093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 0812 GMT 18 Jan 93*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: A group of liars is giving an excuse to a group of criminals. This is what happened last night without shame or embarrassment.

Everyone acts at the instructions of the White House lord, who has become very much like the bloodsuckers who are known in the Hollywood pictures. The White House lord's instructions are based on the following: The criminals have escaped and the corpse has been arrested.

After the cowardly American crime, White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater stood up to justify the recent American aggression by saying that it is a new American attempt to curb Iraq's nuclear capabilities. The spokesman, who claims he is respected, has forgotten that the target which was attacked is a site that was inspected by the UN inspection teams. These teams proved, through documented evidence kept by the Security Council, that this site neither poses any danger nor contains any nuclear activity. Fitzwater also forgot to explain to the gathering of journalists why the very smart American bombs deviated from their targets to hit a peaceful house which is not on the list of banned items nor the list of the important strategic targets that were stored in the memory of the aggressive computer. Fitzwater also forgot to lose his calmness in front of the innocent blood which was shed unfairly and deliberately.

Amid the flood of lies, CIA agent David Kay stressed that the target which was hit has no strategic importance for Iraq in the long run. This Kay, who is well known to the Iraqis, forgot to make a casual remark that the inspection teams visited this site, which was the target of the American aggression, and found nothing that had been banned. Also, amid the dirty flood of lies, some old forgotten American military men tried to put on the

uniforms of generals again in order to explain in a (?rancorous) way Iraq's responsibility for the bombing of the al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad with a Tomahawk cruise missile. This is despite the fact the a CNN correspondent presented to the viewers part of the missile with the name Williams Company on it, which is the name of an American company based in [name indistinct], Florida. This company manufactures components for the Tomahawk cruise missile which hit the al-Rashid Hotel and made a crater 10 feet deep and 20 feet in diameter. CNN correspondents say that they are certain that the al-Rashid Hotel was hit by an American missile. Meanwhile, America's [word indistinct] are trying to turn the crime into a circus to play with words in order to turn the victim into a criminal just to satisfy their master who taught them how to lie.

We would not be surprised if someone will say that the Williams Company is based in an Iraqi city as long as this allegation covers criminals with illusions in a game similar to the clothes of that emperor and his charlatan tailor.

Moral Guidance Directorate Appeal to Air Defense Fighters

JN1801133993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Announcement by the Armed Forces Moral Guidance Directorate to our auspicious fighters, the heroes of our air defense units.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

O ye who believe, if ye will aid the cause of God, He will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

O unrivaled fighters; descendants of 'Ali Bin-Abi Talib, 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab, and Saladin; heroes of the great Iraq; soldiers of the brave leader Saddam Husayn. Strike them, for the day of encounter has come. Strike the enemies of God and humanity. Strike them, and God will punish them by your hands, and heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse]

Glory is awaiting you each time you fire at the aircraft and missiles of the treacherous enemy. Strike with all capability and force and teach them who the Iraqis are. Strike them, for God is with you and the spirits of our forefathers are hovering over you, pleased with your heroic acts. Strike them, and shout God is great and victory for our great Iraq.

Saddam Chairs Air Force Command Meeting 18 Jan

JN1801140593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1358 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today chaired a meeting attended by fighter

General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member defense minister; fighter Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense; and senior officers from the Air force and Air Defense Command.

Spokesman Confirms 18 Jan Air Strikes, Casualties

JN1801142093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1339 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Unscheduled announcement: A military spokesman's statement on 18 January]

[Text] Brother listeners, we have just received the following: A military spokesman has made the following statement:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The will of virtue and right, to which the Iraqis are adhering, and which was tested throughout all years of the honorable fight and passed the difficult test with a success that astonished the enemies and made them lose their mind, will remain a miracle in the face of which the criminals' calculations will fail, the dreams of the desperate ones will shatter, and the techniques of tyrants and despots will be thwarted. This is because such a will is based on spiritual, cultural, and humanitarian depth, which is rare to find among any people other than the steadfast, proud people of Iraq.

Regardless of how blind the malicious ones get on account of their hatred, a hatred that makes them lose both sight and mind, they doubtlessly submit to this fact; the fact that whenever the fighting gets tougher, the creativity of the Iraqi mind rises higher and its capable, historic action gets stronger, and the determination to break the will of evil gets stronger and firmer.

The men of Iraq have drawn all of this from the resolve of their great historic leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, who, in the age of defiance, told the entire camp of infidelity and tyranny: No to infidelity, yes to faith; no to tyrants, yes to the wretched of the earth; no to injustice and slavery, and yes to humanity as it expresses its free, independent will. Blessed be the logic of the faithful, and damned be the arrogance of the despotic tyrants.

The crimes of aggression for today were as follows:

1. At 1135 [0835 GMT] today, the aircraft of aggression raided a military position south of the city of Mosul. Our ground defenses confronted them and forced them to flee.

2. At 1150, the aircraft of the evildoers continued their raids. They once again raided a military position south of the city of Mosul. Our air defenses, which were lying in wait for them, forced them to flee.

3. At 1155, hostile targets penetrated our airspace over al-Najaf and al-Qadisiyah Governorates. Our ground defenses confronted them and forced them to flee.

4. At 1157, a hostile target penetrated our national airspace over Wasit Governorate. Our defenses confronted them with their well-known high capability.

5. At 1158, a criminal enemy bombed a military position west of Dhi Qar Governorate.

6. At 1200, the enemy once again bombed one of our military positions in the city of al-Nasiriyah.

7. At 1230, the enemy also bombed a military position in Dhi Qar Governorate.

8. At 1255, enemy aircraft raided a military position east of the city of Mosul, and dropped their cluster bombs.

9. Between 1203 and 1209 today, four of our aircraft formations intercepted the aggression's aircraft, forcing them to flee.

10. As a result of the aforementioned raids, 21 were martyred and one wounded, and a number of equipment and vehicles sustained damage.

[Dated] 18 January 1993

MENA Cited on 'Panic' in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

JN1801144593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1428 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Unscheduled news report]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: We have just received the following: Panic, chaos, and alarm dominate in the eastern region of Saudi Arabia. Government departments and companies were closed and employees and workers left disorderly with the circulation of strong rumors that Iraq had fired a missile at Dhahran. CNN says that sirens were sounded in Dhahran and the eastern region of Saudi Arabia. Patriot missiles were also fired to intercept the Iraqi missile.

The Egyptian news agency, MENA, has reported that as soon as it heard the news, Kuwaiti civil defense forces started sounding sirens in Kuwait and fired Patriot missiles in the direction of Kuwait's airport. Kuwait radio started to caution inhabitants, urging them to remain calm. The agent shaykhs asked their masters to dispatch U.S., British, and French troops to protect them against a possible Iraqi invasion.

A few minutes ago, CNN reported that U.S. military sources have denied that Iraq had fired missiles against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The sources repeatedly assured the residents of eastern Saudi Arabia and Kuwait that what they had seen was not an Iraqi missile, but flames coming from the tail nozzle of a U.S. aircraft as it was returning to Dhahran from Iraq.

Six 'Huge' Explosions Rock Eastern Iraqi Cities

LD1801150093 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Dehloran, Ilam Prov., Jan. 18, IRNA—Six huge explosions, said to be caused by the western forces attacks on Iraq, shook eastern Iraqi cities this afternoon. The explosions were heard for ten minutes from 12:40 hours local time (9:10 hours GMT) at the border strip of Ilam, and the Iraqi cities of Maysan, 'Ali al-Gharbi and 'Ali al-Sharqi were the possible targets.

It was the second time that explosions were heard fourteen hours after the air and missile attacks of the western forces against Iraqi military and non-military installations.

Spokesman Says Eight Missiles Shot Down 17 Jan

JN1801153793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—A military spokesman has announced that our air defense units on the night of 17 January shot down eight of the missiles the American aggressors fired against Iraq.

In a statement today, the spokesman said President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has ordered awards to the fighters who downed the aggressors' missiles. The fighters will be awarded half a million dinars for every missile they shoot down. [passage omitted]

Soldiers Awarded for Reportedly Downing Missiles

JN1801154493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1502 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Every time the confrontation becomes fiercer, the believers become stronger, and the genuine pure nature of the men of our lofty Armed Forces becomes clear, where noble stands are linked to heroic, powerful action. These are the characteristics of the unique men whose names are listed below, as well as their distinguished action through which they have pleased God, the homeland, and the leader. Blessed be your efforts and distinguished acts O lofty, righteous men. Blessed be your families. The leader president, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God preserve him, has ordered that the fighters whose names and units are listed below be honored, as they downed a number of the aggressors' missiles on 17 January 1993, and be awarded with half a million dinars for each missile downed:
Name and Rank: Staff Lieutenant Colonel Karim Jasim Nufus al-Majid
Number of Missiles Downed: One

Unit: Air Defense

Name and Rank: Lieutenant Colonel Rawdan 'Ubayd Khalaf

Number of Missiles: One

Unit: Commander of Antiaircraft Battalion 1

Name and Rank: Lieutenant Salih Husayn Salim

Number of Missiles: Two

Unit: Commander of Antiaircraft Battalion 2

Name and Rank: Major 'Amir Mansur 'Abd

Number of Missiles: Two

Unit: Ba' Ta' 1K 296 [as heard]

Name and Rank: Captain 'Adnan Jabbar Sa'd

Number of Missiles: One

Unit: Ba' Ta' 5K 69 [as heard]

Name and Rank: Major Sami 'Abd-al-Hamid Khalil

Number of Missiles: One

Unit: Ba' Ta' 3K 141 [as heard]

May God bless your heroic action, and grant you victory and success to raise great Iraq's flag.

[Dated] 18 January 1993

Casualties Reported After Shelling in South

NC1801160893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The large-caliber artillery of tyrant Saddam Husayn's forces have been conducting violent, brutal, and concentrated bombardment of villages and rural areas in all of the southern marshlands for three days.

Eyewitnesses confirmed today that a large number of citizens were killed or wounded and hundreds of homes extensively damaged as a result of the bombardment. The shelling covered the marshlands of al-'Amarah, al-Basrah, and al-Nasiriyah Governorates.

Baghdad Sirens Sound in Response to 'Hostile Air Raid'

JN1801162593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—Sirens were sounded in the capital Baghdad at 1820 [1520 GMT] today indicating a fresh hostile air raid against Iraq. Fifteen minutes later, the all-clear sirens were sounded to indicate the end of the air raid.

An official spokesman today announced that 21 citizens were martyred in today's raids by U.S., British, and French aircraft against the Governorates of Dhi Qar, al-Najaf, Wasit, al-Qadisiyah, and Ninawa, and various military and civilian sites.

U.S. Aircraft May Have Shot Down Plane in North

NC1801175093 Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Ankara, Jan 18 (AFP) - U.S. aircraft are believed to have shot down an Iraqi MiG-29 Monday [18 January] in the northern exclusion zone above the 36th parallel in Iraq, the semi-official ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY said. The agency quoted a Turkish military source in Diyarbakir, southeastern Turkey.

The Turkish-U.S. military air base in Incirlik, near the southern city of Adana, could not confirm the report when contacted by telephone from Ankara.

Tariq 'Aziz Comments on Recent Developments

JN1801181793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1718 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Commenting on the recent incidents and yesterday's U.S. aggression, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the recent series of incidents, beginning with the ultimatum delivered by the U.S., British, and French Governments on 6 January and until the U.S. aggression against Baghdad yesterday, reveals many serious facts. This series began by raising a storm of controversy over Iraq's natural right to deploy missiles of a defensive nature on part of its territory, and over its right to fly in its own airspace. Threats began to be made by the Bush administration and the British and French Governments on this point. Iraq had explained its stand rejecting and resisting the illegitimate measures that the three states imposed to ban Iraqi flights in Iraqi skies on the grounds that these measures are unilateral, harm Iraq's sovereignty, and endanger its national unity.

At this stage of the crisis, the three governments tried to deceive world public opinion by making it believe that the banning of Iraqi flights over the north and the south was a UN decision. However, this deception was exposed. It became clear to all that the decision imposing the ban had been a unilateral decision made by the United States, Britain, and France, and was issued on the basis of political colonialist motives aimed at partitioning Iraq and destabilizing its domestic front.

To create a cover in the name of the United Nations for its hostile, vengeful designs in its last days, the Bush administration launched a feverish large-scale campaign to mix the cards with respect to the no-fly zone and other issues of a marginal nature, and to portray these marginal issues as being a violation of UN resolutions and in defiance of this organization. It made the UN Security Council on 8 and 11 January issue inaccurate statements on the issue. To elucidate such a premeditated confusion, Iraq made a decision suspending the recovery of its property from the demilitarized zone, and submitted proposals on this issue to tackle the question of the arrival of UN Special Committee planes to Iraq. In spite of these responsible stands and measures adopted by

Iraq, the Bush administration and the British and French Governments carried out their premeditated aggression on 13 January. When the Bush administration found out that its aggression failed to achieve its objectives, it once again raised the issue of Special Committee planes in a dramatic and fabricated manner. Iraq submitted additional practical solutions on this issue.

The solution, which was proposed by Iraq on 16 January 1993 to guarantee the safety of UN Special Committee aircraft entering Iraq from Jordanian airspace, is a practical and logical one and does not constitute any hindrance of Special Committee work. All it adds to the Special Committee's operations is that it will delay the flight's duration for no more than 50 minutes. Had the Special Committee officials dealing with the issue been objective and not involved in the dirty game of the Bush administration, they would have accepted this practical and constructive arrangement proposed by Iraq, and the committee would have resumed its work in accordance with the requirements of Resolution 687 in an ordinary fashion.

However, these circles in the Special Committee accepted becoming cheap tools to carry out a new dirty aggression against Iraq. These circles in the Special Committee, in addition to the Bush administration, bear total legal and moral responsibility for the dirty aggression, which occurred on 17 January and which hit the al-Rashid Hotel, a residential area in Baghdad, and al-Nida' Enterprise; for its results, and for the human victims of the aggression.

The deputy prime minister added: White House spokesman Fitzwater claimed that the Bush administration had decided to strike the al-Nida' Enterprise under the pretext that Iraq is violating UN resolutions and also alleged that this enterprise produces components for nuclear weapons. Tariq 'Aziz said: The questions being raised about Fitzwater's allegations are: First of all, who has authorized the Bush administration to act in the name of the United Nations? The Security Council, which is the authorized party in this regard, did not hold any meeting on the issue before the U.S. aggression took place.

The whole story is that the Bush administration has pushed certain quarters in the Special Committee, without the knowledge of the UN Security Council, to take an unjustified stand and reject the constructive Iraqi proposal regarding the arrival of committee planes at al-Habbaniyah Airport. The objective was to distort facts and mix the cards.

The second question is: Who authorized the Bush administration to judge that the al-Nida' Enterprise produces components used in the manufacturing of nuclear weapons. According to Resolution 687, the Special Committee and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] are responsible for following up on such issues. Five teams from these two bodies have visited and inspected this enterprise. The latest visit was by an

IAEA inspection team led by expert Dimitri Perricos in November 1992. There is not any official statement issued by these two bodies describing the enterprise in same the manner used by Fitzwater, knowing that the IAEA officials have on more than one occasion stated that the Iraqi nuclear program had reached the point of being nonexistent. Officials on the Special Committee have also said that the means to produce chemical weapons have been eliminated. Furthermore, the technical, specialized reports issued by the committee have not mentioned any evidence that Iraq has produced biological weapons.

Tariq 'Aziz said: This series reveals very serious facts:

1. That the Bush administration has given itself the authority to speak on issues of concern to Iraq, and even the authority to commit a military aggression against it without any official, clear mandate from the United Nations or its agencies.
2. The Bush administration has given itself the right to classify the Iraqi industrial establishment, representing behavior which has no legitimate or technical basis.
3. The Bush administration has actually employed circles within the Special Committee as tools to provide false cover for its aggressive designs, including the latest aggression perpetrated on 17 January.

'Aziz said: From these substantive facts, we conclude that all the allegations aimed at depicting the current situation as an Iraqi-UN dispute are baseless and fabricated. The perpetration of the third aggression today, 18 January, confirms the fact that the basic issue is Iraq's resistance of the illegitimate no-fly zone imposed by the United States, Britain, and France. At the same time, yesterday's aggression confirms the complicity of certain circles in the Special Committee with the Bush administration's dirty schemes, raising serious and grim questions concerning the integrity and objectivity of these circles and the statements issued by some of them.

'Aziz pointed out that variations in the behavior of Special Committee members confirm what Iraq has been reiterating all along and at the Security Council; namely, that this committee is now riddled with spies who exploit the committee's cover to carry out aims that have nothing to do with Resolution 687; aims drawn up for them by the Bush administration in its spiteful and aggressive anti-Iraq campaign.

'Aziz said that these facts raise serious questions about the issue of cooperation with these circles in the Special Committee. 'Aziz appealed to UN Security Council members who have no tendentious aims against Iraq to look into these facts and conclusions with all seriousness, and to evaluate the numerous stands and measures adopted against Iraq in the past in light of these facts and conclusions. 'Aziz also asked the international community to raise its voice against this open exploitation of the

United Nations and its bodies by the Bush administration to realize aggressive political aims that have nothing to do with the United Nations or its Charter.

Ramadan Rejects Infringement on 'Full' Sovereignty

JN1801191293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and vice president, has stressed that Iraq categorically rejects infringement on its full sovereignty over its land, air, and water.

During a meeting with a Egyptian Labor Party delegation participating in the sixth World Islamic Conference, he said: The homeland's sovereignty is an indivisible whole, and any infringement on this sovereignty is an attempt to occupy or partition it.

He added that the UN Security Council's responsibility and duty is to achieve homelands' security and full sovereignty, and not to issue resolutions partitioning them in accordance with the old-new colonialist policy of the United States, Britain, and France.

The Egyptian Labor Party delegation stressed that Iraq's strength is for the Arab nation, and that the Arab masses, including all their organizations and parties, stand on Iraq's side in its jihad in defense of the Arabs' future and existence.

The delegation members were unanimous that the Iraqis will achieve ultimate victory through their brave stand and generous sacrifices, which constitute a strength to be added to that of all the Arabs who struggle for sovereignty, progress, and pride.

The Egyptian delegation comprises Muhammad Abu-al-Futuh and Ahmad Hasan, members of the higher committee of the Egyptian Labor Party; and Muhammad al-Mallah, member of the higher committee of the Labor Party and deputy editor in chief of the Egyptian newspaper AL-SHA'B.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and vice president, has also said that the cowardly operation and the missiles criminal Bush fired at the capital of light and faith, Baghdad, expose the blind rancor which is boiling in the chests of the rancorous leaders of the United States, Britain, and France against the lofty and steadfast Iraqi people.

During a meeting with Nasir Abu-'Aziz, deputy chairman of the General Federation of Palestinian Students, the vice president said that striking at tourist and cultural sites and citizens' homes is a disgrace, not only to the perpetrators of the immoral and hideous crime, but to all those who remain silent and watch this open aggressive criminal action.

The deputy chairman of the General Federation of Palestinian Students praised the brave leadership of the

leader President Saddam Husayn. He stressed that the sons of Palestine, inside and outside the occupied territories, are proud of the Iraqis' steadfastness and courage, and that they still admire the al-'Abbas and al-Husayn missiles which fell on the Zionist occupiers.

UN Committee Asserts 'Independence' From Allies

NC1801195293 Paris AFP in English 1912 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpts] United Nations, Jan 18 (AFP) - The United Nations' special commission on disarming Iraq on Monday [18 January] asserted its independence, rejecting Baghdad's accusations that it sides with the allies.

"The Special Commission has been very eager from the start to establish its independence and to maintain it," commission spokesman Tim Trevan told AFP. "It is not in our interest to have a prolongation of this particular crisis. We would like to see the Iraqis abide by their obligations," Trevan said. [passage omitted]

"We are basically UN employees here and we try to act to the best of our abilities as independent international civil servants," Trevan said. He defended the fact that most of the 1,000 people who have participated in the commission's 47 missions have been Westerners: "There is a very good reason for that. We are talking about weapons of mass destruction. If most of our nuclear weapons experts come from those countries, it is hardly surprising."

He described accusations that the commission's replies to proposals from Baghdad were delayed while the commission consulted with Washington as "totally false."

"I don't think five or six hours is unduly long to get responses out on highly sensitive issues fraught with both political and legal consequences," he said.

The Iraq crisis, days before Bill Clinton succeeds George Bush as U.S. President, is in response to Baghdad's imposition of restrictions on the movement of the U.N. weapons commission and violation of no-fly zones imposed by Britain, France and the United States. There has also been an increase in tension on the Kuwaiti border.

Trevan said the UN special commission, known as UNSCOM, is an "executive and subsidiary organ of the Security Council," created after the Gulf war cease fire in 1991.

Ibrahim Meets Turkish Party Official, Others

JN1801220793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], today received Sevket

Kazan, deputy leader of the Turkish Welfare Party, who is participating in the World Popular Islamic Conference in Baghdad.

The RCC vice chairman voiced his appreciation for the Turkish Welfare Party's position in favor of the Iraqi people, who are confronting an U.S.-imperialist-Zionist onslaught. He also praised the party's eagerness to perpetuate relations between the two neighborly peoples.

During the meeting, Sevkettin Erbakan, leader of the Turkish Welfare Party, to mujahid President Saddam Husayn. Bazan stressed the party's continued support for Iraq's positions, as well as its eagerness to achieve security and stability in the region in the interest of its peoples. The meeting was attended by 'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas, minister of awqaf and religious affairs.

'Izzat Ibrahim also met at the al-Rashid Hotel today with a number of Islamic figures participating in the World Popular Islamic Conference under way in Baghdad. He praised the high militant spirit of the participants in the conference, who came under the brutal U.S.-Zionist aggression last night, when one of the treacherous missiles hit the al-Rashid Hotel.

During the meeting, the figures were unanimous that victory will be for great Iraq, with the help of God and through the efforts of its patient, mujahid people under leader mujahid President Saddam Husayn, who is defending the values of the tolerant Islamic message. The Islamic figures said that yesterday's aggression against al-Rashid Hotel failed, with God's help. 'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, attended the meeting.

Minister Reacts to Kuwait's Request for Troops

JN1901002993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Commenting on the agent rulers' in Kuwait request that Britain and France deploy troops north of the city of Kuwait to join U.S. troops currently stationed there, Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has said: The slave agents of the al-Sabah family have been, and are still colluding against the Arab nation and have not learned anything from the lessons that might have helped them act in a rational manner. Like all little, conspiratorial thieves who fear even their own shadows, they never have the peace of mind and always rush to their masters, the strong and big thieves to protect them against the nation. But even their masters deride and look down at them. This is the nature of relations between big thieves and slave thieves.

Bush Said Seeking To Involve Clinton in 'Aggression'

JN1601111793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0817 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Defense Ministry, has said that criminal Bush, who is kicking like a dying mule, is seeking to involve the administration of President Clinton in continuing the new aggression against Iraq.

In an article by Hani Wuhayyib, chief editor of the paper, it adds: Iraq has displayed its new heroism by confronting and repulsing the new aggression. It also proved its military capability and skills in using its air defense weapons which are now effectively protecting Iraq's skies from far north in al-Khazir to far south in al-Dayr. [passage omitted]

Concluding its article, the paper says: The political defeat of the enemies have become clear. Among the Arab regimes who joined the enemies' 30-state aggression against Iraq, none of them has openly supported the enemies except the al-Sabah family and Al Sa'ud. The rest of the regimes spoke about America and its allies using double standards.

Paper Says Bush's 'Bloodbath' Concludes Presidency

JN1801111693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—BABIL writes that George Bush wants to wrap up his black record and his defeat with a bloodbath against the Iraqi people.

In an article in today's edition, the paper adds: Bush's latest crime runs counter to the trend of U.S. public opinion that brought him down in the presidential elections.

This crime amounts to an open bid to mine the path of Bill Clinton, blackmail him and drive the message home to him that the course of Republican policies cannot possibly be altered.

This new act of aggression, the paper adds, puts the seal on the demise of the two most important world bodies—the United Nations and the Security Council—established since World War II.

BABIL asks how UN member nations will conduct themselves against the backdrop of this disgraceful decline of the present U.S. Administration.

To his defeat in the Mother of Battles and in the presidential vote, Bush now adds this military and political suicide. Bush, the paper continued, timed his latest aggression to coincide with the second anniversary of the 1991 full-blown aggression. He sought to disrupt the Iraqi ceremonies observing the anniversary of the aggressors' defeat in the Mother of Battles and stealing the show from the Iraqis as they celebrate victory.

Criminal Bush has gone out of his way to place the United States above the Security Council in the last few years since the Soviet Union's collapse. He wants to make the point that the other council members are little more than staffers whose views hardly count.

Saddam Adviser Addresses Message to Clinton

JN1901122193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—Iraqi writer 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin [press adviser to the Iraqi president] has stressed that Iraq is not an enemy of America and does not want to be one. Iraq, he added, is the enemy of the colonialist, in fact, brutal policies that were practiced against it and against its Arab brothers. In a message addressed to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton, published today in the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, the organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin says: If there is any excuse for this aggression against Iraq we are ready to discuss it in front of the Americans, the Iraqis, and the whole world in a constructive spirit and with sincere intentions to reach an understanding. [passage omitted]

The following is the message the Iraqi writer addressed to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton:

Mr. President: I sincerely hope that you will follow the right path.

I am writing this letter in my office by candlelight while following the news of your missiles falling on my city, the city of the thousand and one nights and the beautiful historic dream for all nations.

I sincerely hope that this message will reach you and would like to make, in advance, an observation on my problem with the media. This message represents my personal view and might be in agreement with or far from the view of my government because a citizen in our country has a right to express his personal opinion even if he is a government official. I will try to be brief in every point I will present as it might be covered in many articles and much research. However, I will leave it to wise thinking to understand the details and reach the necessary conclusions.

1. You succeeded in the elections because you raised the slogan of "making changes" and through the call for new concepts in internal and foreign policies.

2. This means that when the American people elected you they chose the "course of making changes" and have not voted for the current policies.

3. You will support the "new world order" as many American and Western leaders although the meaning of the "new world order" differs from one person to another and from one country to another.

4. In addition to "making changes" and the "new world order" there are two other concepts: "U.S. national

interests" and "the principles of the American revolution, in accordance with which the United States was established"—that is, the principles of the new world represented by freedom, equality, creativeness, and progress.

5. We would like now to ask this important question: Where does American policy stand in this era in which George Bush was really a skillful actor?

6. Your Excellency the President: You may share me the opinion that current American policy is based on the following:

—Considering the have-nots' legitimate ambitions and their right to sovereignty, progress, democracy, food, and medical treatment a communist conspiracy against U.S. security. This was the case recently, but now this is considered a "Saddamist aggression." It is called this after our country's leader Saddam Husayn.

—Insisting on the fact that the West remains the West and the East remains the East and that superiority, hegemony, scientific progress, and economic prosperity are the lot of the West alone.

—Seeking the animosity of the progressive and civilized regimes and attempting to topple them by all means as well as supporting the backward regimes and dictatorships and, in fact, creating these regimes through military coups and conspiracies.

The cabinet drawers of the White House and the Central Intelligence Agency are full of files containing these positions. You can read them to know how truthful my argument is.

The United States refuses to deal with broad-based social currents and prefers instead to deal with isolated forces that only represent themselves.

The United States refuses to deal with future powers, and prefers instead to extend unlimited support for backward forces whose existence in this age is ensured by mere continuity rather than by a great need for them. The best evidence I advance to corroborate my argument in this regard is your country's support for the oil shaykhs as well as your country's enmity to figures as the late 'Abd-al-Nasir, our leader Saddam Husayn, Yasir 'Arafat, Indira Gandhi, Bhutto, his daughter, and other pioneers of nationalism and democracy.

The United States always endeavors to impose policies and plans which are not only opposed to peoples' interests, but which are also impossible to achieve. And because such stands most often fail, the United States finds itself compelled to impose them by force. Sometimes, the United States invests efforts, money, and even blood in excess of the desired benefit to achieve this.

U.S. policy is pursuing a course of divide and rule, using ethnic diversity to cause division, chaos, and turmoil and to bring about bloodletting and to squander efforts and funds as well.

U.S. policy acts on the following proverb: "That which cannot be cured by medicine is cured by fire."

7. The terms of reference used by U.S. policy, as I have already explained it, are exclusively as follows:

British policy, or the policy of old colonialism as represented by Britain.

Israel and World Zionism.

CIA men—adventurists, as well as the sick who cherish violence.

Shortsighted local reactionary elements.

Anticommunist trends, which most often were misdirected.

8. Mr. President: Permit me to say the following to you, without any elaboration:

British policy was based on two things: The age of savages and the colonialist system, which accompanied the era of geographic explorations. Your country suffered from this policy and resisted it with a giant revolution that led to secession from Britain. Fortunately, you still deem the leaders of the revolution against Britain national heroes.

You are well aware that Israel is an entity based on usurpation, and that it seeks to expand at the expense of the Arabs. It expanded at the expense of the Arabs in Syria and Lebanon. It seeks to expand further. Since its inception, it has been in a state of military conflict with the Arabs. The interests of this entity do not converge with the real interests of the United States. Consequently, whatever is good for the rulers of Israel, or any other country for that matter, is not necessarily good for the United States. Indeed, the motto "Whatever is good for General Motors is good for the United States" must be revived. Of course, you may add to General Motors "IBM" or "Chase Manhattan". Then, you will be met with understanding rather than hostility. Moreover, you will spare yourself the shedding of blood and save a great deal of money, particularly since Japan is reaping all benefits.

As for the approaches used by CIA men and reactionary forces in the United States, they have tarnished the image of the United States before the world. Worse still, many mothers have begun to teach their children to hate the United States, as if it were the devil incarnate.

Mr. President: You may share with me the view that it is the Marshall Plan rather than McCarthy's tanks [as received] which stopped Communist tanks at the gates of East Berlin, allowed the Western alliance to remain intact up to now, and laid the groundwork for the collapse of communism and the Soviet Union.

9. This policy has resulted in harboring enmity toward a noble nation; that is, the Arab nation, even though this nation has been at the forefront of the nations seeking the friendship of the United States since the beginning of this century. This took place when the Arabs sought U.S. help in the fight against Ottoman colonialism and then against the British and French colonial rule, and also

when they sought U.S. assistance to achieve Arab unity and realize a reasonable degree of progress. However, instead of receiving U.S. assistance, the Arabs were confronted with an unjustifiable enmity and with positions which, to say the least, are humiliating.

10. And lastly, your country under George Bush made the Iraqi people and their leadership its enemy and launched a world war against them. Have you asked why?

Iraq, as you know, is not an enemy of the United States, nor does it want to be one. Iraq is an enemy of the imperialist and savage policies that have been directed at it and its fellow Arabs. It is natural, therefore, that Iraq should make enemies of the practitioners of these policies, whether they are Americans or not.

—Iraq is a nation pursuing scientific, technological, and social advancement.

—Iraq is pursuing its economic welfare, and tries to avail its people of food, medicine, and education. It is trying to build the infrastructure of a modern society, such as energy stations, roads, bridges, and heavy industries, all of which were hit by your aircraft without anyone bothering to explain how this action fitted in with what the Bush administration called the liberation of Kuwait.

—Regardless of how you rate our style of government or how democratic or otherwise it is, I shouldn't think that the system of government in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, or the majority of nations in Latin America, or Egypt for that matter can be called democratic by any standard, or has any respect for human rights. Neither do I think that you know what kind of man Saddam Husayn is nor what noble objectives he is pursuing for his people. I do not think that you are ignorant of the kind of relationship he maintains with his people—one based on a joint effort to attain a joint objective and a human and noble compassion we hope to become common between rulers and the ruled throughout the world.

—The Bush administration assembled forces to wage a third world war against a small people pursuing security and prosperity and wanting to lend a hand in building civilization in a manner befitting its history under an enlightened historic leadership.

If there is a need to discuss this aggression on Iraq, we are available for a debate before the American and Iraqi people and the whole world in a constructive spirit and with a sincere desire to search for understanding.

11. Mr. President: Your know better than I do that Britain's policies, which are now being adopted by the United States, have reduced it to a second-rate nation, beset by all kinds of problems, and loved and respected by no one, all its leaders' pretensions to the contrary notwithstanding. Indeed, the type of leaders now ruling Britain are indicative of the country's decline and lack of

capacity for advancement. You know better than I do that the United States and the world have been plunged into no end of problems by virtue of the fact that the intelligence services have run the U.S. Administration rather than the other way around. You also know that the problems, the wrongs, and the sins you highlighted in your election campaign and on the strength of which you won public support were the result of flawed policies.

—I would like to ask you, Mr. President: Does Bush have a legal right, in accordance with the norms, human ethics, and behavior enjoyed by a head of state, to wage two wars in two countries—namely, Somalia and Iraq—during his last week in office? Does he not aim at embroiling you in this? Does this not show reckless and childish behavior and rancor at your success before being rancor at anybody else? Why does Bush ignore the fact that the Americans did not elect him because they are not satisfied with his policy?

12. What is the urgent issue that requires a use of force and which cannot wait five days until the new president takes office?

13. And last, Mr. President, the policy of America and the stand on Iraq have not witnessed any change, but are the height of conservatism.

14. Such a policy does not belong in the "new world" but is the best characteristic of the "old world."

15. Such a policy does not remind us of George Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and the citizen Tom Paine. Neither it reminds us of the people of Hemingway, John Steinbeck, the best craftsman Ezra Pound, Edith Sitwell, Ruth Benedict, Einstein, Henry Fonda, and Anthony Quinn.

These are policies and stands that remind us of Tamerlane and Churchill, or if you like, Stalin and Hitler.

16. By the way, does not the way with which your representative at the United Nations represents the threatening memorandums remind you of what Ribbentrop did with central European countries?

17. Mr. President: The people elected you for other than this policy, so do not disappoint them. Support the changes and the new world as you promised. You will then enjoy God's sympathy and the people's love. You will save your country from many problems which burden your country and which, if they continue, your country will descend from the peak. And if a country like yours falls down it will go down into the abyss and the fragmentation, which America is now practicing against others, will affect the United States itself. Then, it will be useless to search for the causes at universities and in the memorandums of politicians and the military.

18. While my country strives to avoid war and dwells on construction, it will resist aggression with all the means available to it, this being a natural right. However, let me say this: By antagonizing Iraq you may please some

quarters, but you will have thus forfeited the bases on which your country's legitimate and permanent interests are built.

Why? This is because the values and concepts which Iraq stands for, are not confined to its territorial borders but represent a nation extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf.

If Iraq looks alone at present, it has the future. All major religions, including the divine messages, faced rejection, war, and siege and were supported only by the poor and people of honor, but before long, they spread across the earth and among all the people. Yet, if the only option open to you or any others is war, we will fight and fight and fight. Neither you nor anyone else can finish off a people, let alone a nation.

Lastly, Mr. President, I do not claim to possess greater wisdom and knowledge than your advisers. However, I claim that I am sincere and truthful, and this should be enough for you.

Bush's Hostile Policy Said Lesson to Others

JN1601100493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0747 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that those who have persist with their sins and arrogance should reassess their stands in light of their experience with Iraq.

In an article by Amir al-Hilu, the paper advises these parties to accept the fact that Iraq is not one of those countries that can be dealt with through threats and aggression but through the recourse to logic and just principles which is the only means to settle crises, without impinging on any national right having to do with sovereignty, dignity, and freedom.

The paper expresses surprise that George Bush and his followers have not yet been convinced that the use of military force is unproductive when faced with an iron will. The paper wonders: Wasn't the use of thousands of aircraft and missiles in the unjust aggression on 17 January 1991 against the all of Iraqi territory, water, and airspace enough to confirm how mistaken this hostile method to settle crises was?

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The decision to launch the air raids on southern Iraq is a bad ending for Bush, whether in terms of the principles substantiating the decision and its implementation, or in terms of its frustrating results on the political and military level.

The paper then discusses how the leadership in Iraq tackles the problems of the policies of aggression and interference in the country's domestic affairs. The paper says that the leadership is not of the type that fears threats, or is apprehensive about military aggressions. This leadership does not approach the battles it wages in

a conventional manner but proceeds in its calculations from the angle of its concern for the safety, security, and unity of the homeland.

AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes the principled resolve of the Iraqi leadership to attain its legitimate objectives. The paper says that this leadership is not ready to bargain on principles or go back on them no matter the cost, the difficulties, or the results.

The paper then discusses the personality of President Saddam Husayn who is at the top of the echelon of power in Iraq and who administers Iraq's battles on all levels with a shrewd mind and a comprehensive approach. The paper says that President Saddam Husayn is not one of those ordinary leaders who get scared by oppressive power, and that in his endeavors to attain the principles in which he believes will bring Iraq and the Arab nation good. He believes in logic and positive dialogue, and the using peaceful means to reach radical solutions to crises.

The paper draws attention to the fact that out of his belief in the logic of dialogue and negotiations, President Saddam Husayn completely rejects the attempts to impose views by force or aggression, and does not hesitate to make the firm decision if he sees that there is no alternative to confronting the enemy.

The paper says it hopes that the downfall of Bush's hostile policy will be a lesson to those who wish to pursue the same policy against Iraq.

'Deadly End' of 'Damnably Criminal Bush' Viewed

JN1801024093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2343 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yes, by God, it is the fatal end of the damnable criminal Bush, the symbol of vile, despicable devils. Yes, by God, they are the kicks of a failed madman who was kicked out by history after it ripped his face that lacks human blood. They are the kicks of a dying man, who tasted the deadly poison administered by the Iraqis through their miraculous steadfastness in the face of his crimes, grudges, tyranny, and disregard. The Iraqis then doubled the dose of poison administered to his body through their jihad and reconstruction and by enduring his unjust blockade and reckless aggression.

Yes, by God, it is the Baghdad of God is Great, which tells its faithful lovers that it is a prosperous Baghdad that will stay, and that it is the Baghdad of God is Great, which has never been subjected to humiliation, disgrace, or humility except humility before Almighty God, the omnipotent creator of mankind.

Yes, by God, it is the Iraq of mujahid leader Saddam Husayn, the Iraq of zealotness, pride, faith, and challenge, which made damnable Bush sleepless and dislodged him from his seat of arrogance and absurd disdain.

Yes, by God, it is the people of Saddam Husayn, who teach the world a lesson in bravery, confidence, faithfulness, and willpower. Yes, by God, it is Saddam Husayn, the leader of the assembly of the mujahid faithful and the founder of this new, rising, creative Iraq, and the one who unleashed good energies on the pure land of Iraq for his faithful, loyal people and for all good people and free men in the world.

Yes, by God, it is the deadly end of the damnable devil Bush, the defeated loser. We are not the only people who say this and who spread the good news about it. Even those who side with him among the allies of vileness and aggression have started to say this with us. So thank God, thank God, thank God. God is great, God is great, God is great. The truth has arrived. The Arab Iraqi truth has arrived, and the falsehood of failed Bush has vanished.

Al-Sahhaf on U.S. Relations in Interview

JN1501201693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 15 Jan 93

[“Exclusive” interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa’id al-Sahhaf by Faridah al-Shubashi “on the eve of the military operation against Iraq” place not given—recorded; from the “In the Event” program]

[Text] [Al-Sahhaf] Despite the fact that two years have passed since the brute aggression against Iraq, not all facts related to the crimes committed against the Iraqi people have been revealed. I am certain that the facts about the secrets of this cowardly aggression against the Iraqi people will gradually unfold. The world will discover, with extreme bitterness, that what they were told about a clean war was not true and that the war was not clean in any way whatsoever. It was a dirty war. In fact, it was one of the dirtiest wars in history. They bombed civilians and the property of the Iraqi people, which have nothing to do with any military affair. They chickened out and did not confront the valiant Iraqi Army. They hit us from a distance and hit civilians. It is enough that one fact was revealed, that the victims of the U.S. aggression among the civilian Iraqis are four times the number of victims of Iraq's martyrs from its Armed Forces. I say that history will judge harshly this cowardly war and this failed aggression launched against the Iraqi people. On the second anniversary, I say that some facts have been revealed during the past two years. It is noticeable that all fair-minded American citizens, and even some of them who have a prominent position in the U.S. media, have started to realize this bitter truth. Iraq will remain lofty. The people of Iraq, despite injustice and the repetition of injustice and aggression against them and the continued blockade, are a patient and

unyielding nation. Whenever we remember this unjust aggression against our people, you will see that our people are loftier.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency the Minister, is there hope in Iraq that relations between the United States and Iraq will improve after the inauguration of President-elect Bill Clinton?

[Al-Sahhaf] Honestly, Mrs. Faridah, we do not care which U.S. Administration rules the United States. The relations are between Iraq and the United States, between the Iraqi people and the U.S. people.

[Al-Shubashi] In your view the difference is an Iraqi-U.S. one and not a difference between Iraq and the United Nations?

[Al-Sahhaf] Certainly. We do not like that the two countries remain hostage to a dispute. Therefore, when the ranking Iraqi delegation, headed by Deputy Prime Tariq Aziz went to New York last time, they asked him this question. He said: For us it is not important what administration rules in Washington. The United States and Iraq should not stay hostage to the complexes of the past that were created by George Bush's administration. They have to think of the future. Even George Bush's administration, which launched the largest aggression in the 20th century against a small country, that is Iraq—even to this administration we said we are prepared for dialogue. Therefore, we believe that dialogue is the right way.

[Al-Shubashi] Has the dialogue scored any progress in the Arab arena? I mean has Iraq been able to overcome the results of the Gulf war?

[Al-Sahhaf] Since the aggression against Iraq stopped we said that we are ready for talk and dialogue with anyone who so desires? This position of the Iraqi foreign policy is a firm and constant one. When we said this about the United States, which is the foreign country that led the aggression against Iraq, we said that we do not mind... [pauses] we proposed to have dialogue, so how do mind having dialogue with our Arab brothers? It is the same continued policy. We do all we can, and he who reciprocates the same goodwill will find us ready for dialogue.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency the Minister, you participated in the Arab foreign ministers's conference, held in Cairo on Israel's deportation of Palestinians. Have you held bilateral talks with the Arab ministers on Iraqi-Arab relations?

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, we held talks with several colleagues and brothers, the Arab foreign ministers.

[Al-Shubashi] In your view, will some Arab countries try to breach the siege imposed on the Iraqi people?

[Al-Sahhaf] We hope so, and we urge them to do so. We understand the circumstances of every brother, but we

urge them to do so because it is logical that the Arabs start by breaching the unjust siege imposed on our country.

[Al-Shubashi] On the basis that this siege was imposed by the United Nations?

[Al-Sahhaf] All political and legal justifications for this siege, in the point of view of the Security Council, have ended. What is more important is that the justifications, which are described as moral, are also finished. What continues to be imposed on us is not something called a Security Council resolution. It is a political decision by the U.S. Bush Administration. In fact, anyone who follows accurately and objectively—I don't say one who shows favor to Iraq or to another party, but an objective researcher—he will find that justifications for this siege have collapsed, most of which, and even all of which, could have been overcome, and the siege, which is unprecedented in history, could have been avoided. But the political plans and intentions have imposed this siege, and this fact has become exposed to the world. Now, since the fighting ceased in March 1991, and as Iraq carried out a series of measures after it accepted Resolution 687 and other relevant resolutions—despite the injustice they contain—after Iraq carried out measures that are known to all and documented, and after it met its commitments imposed on it by these resolutions, all pretexts have collapsed, first of which are the moral pretexts.

[Al-Shubashi] Your excellency, I have a question which I hope will be answered. Has the United States submitted certain demands to Iraq that, if met, would loosen the grip of the embargo?

[Al-Sahhaf] Nothing of this kind has taken place on the bilateral level. You are aware that the Bush Administration announced this on the radio. Bush himself says the blockade will continue until the political system in Iraq has been changed. Is there anything more contemptuous toward international law? I believe the man who shows this degree of contempt does not hold bilateral contacts because he will not only draw consternation but he will be completely rejected. Bush made conditions representing what he himself calls the world order. He made conditions that rob other peoples of their freedom, dignity, and sovereignty. His misfortune led him to implement his strange principles on a proud and brave people who have a political system loved by 20 million Iraqis.

Therefore, as we see it, the issue is that a U.S. Administration of this nature has been announcing unreasonable conditions through the media.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency, there is a conviction in Iraq that the settlement of the dispute and all its ramifications are contingent on the course that the U.S.-Iraqi relations will take and that the United Nations has nothing to do with it.

[Al-Sahhaf] This is not our conviction but this has become clear to numerous UN members, particularly the UN Security Council members.

[Al-Shubashi] For two days, we have been observing that the Russian stand has stiffened. Of course, there is the British stand and the French stand—which are allied with the United States. Has there been any contacts with France, for instance?

[Al-Sahhaf] Whenever there is a direct or indirect means of contact, we always say that it is very difficult for the fair-minded observer to understand the stands of the French external policy. A brief reading of this policy shows that the current policy is selling out many of France's genuine interests.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency, we have been hearing indignant voices in the Arab press deploring the fact that the United Nations should be clear and decisive in applying its resolution on Iraq while the UN Resolutions are not applied in other regions. Do you believe that this now crystallizes an Arab public opinion sympathetic with the situation in Iraq.

[Al-Sahhaf] I hope you will not be surprised to know that this has been crystallized in world public opinion and not only Arab public opinion. This is one of the most salient principles highlighted by the Mother of Battles. If you remember correctly, what we concentrated on the most and what President Saddam Husayn stressed the most throughout the months that followed August 1990 and throughout 1991 and 1992 was that there is an anomalous phenomenon which harms all the world peoples and nations; namely, dealing with two standards. The Arab nation is a victim of this double-standard policy.

Regrettably, the U.S. foreign policy during the Bush administration followed a flagrant double-standard policy and in a way that showed spite toward the Arabs. Not only the Palestinians but the Arab nation as a whole was a victim of the double standard. The Palestinians are the pioneers of the Arab nation in terms of their struggle to regain their rights and land in usurped Palestine. But I regret to say that the entire Arab nation is a victim of this double-standard policy.

[Al-Shubashi] Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Kurdish Reaction To Allied Raids on Iraq

Saddam Should be Target

NC1801223093 (*Clandestine*) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's paper, published an editorial headlined "The target should be the den of terrorism and outlaws, not the scattered missile batteries and radar stations."

The editorial said: At 2100 last Wednesday [13 January], the coalition forces sent a terse message to dictator

Saddam Husayn saying that international legitimacy is serious and will not retract its resolutions that require the dictator and his regime to submit to international law and to stop violating this law or the clauses of the capitulation document that the dictator accepted unconditionally in a tent in Safwan two years ago. That document later became known as one saying yes to anything and to any capitulation and submission by the dictator, with one no to the downfall of the dictator and his regime.

Saddam Husayn received the coalition forces' recent message—100 bombers and fighter planes; he switched off his radars guiding his anti-aircraft missiles and appeared on television to announce to the Iraqi people and his Army, which received the blow directly, that victory had again been achieved and the miserable 100 bombers had lost direction and missed their targets.

There might be some truth in such a claim but it is a distorted one. The target should have been the den of terrorism, repression, and banditry that violates law. By this, we mean Baghdad's dictator himself and his regime that is rejected and despised at the Iraqi, regional, and international levels. The dictator's military communique issued after the air raid announced the death of one Iraqi soldier and three civilians and several wounded. But the military communique—we have no doubt Saddam Husayn wrote it personally—did not mention Iraq's sovereignty and the honor of its peoples, Army, and [word indistinct] or any clear end to the series of catastrophes that still befall Iraq, its people, and Army or the dangers that threaten the country's future through the ploys and quixotic shows that the Baghdad dictator has staged since he assumed power directly in July 1979.

The victories that Saddam Husayn celebrates after every defeat—and he has had many defeats—are victories over the Iraqi people. They infect this people with more economic and social collapses. They are victories over the Iraqi Army, making it experience the increasingly bitter taste of military defeats. The least important defeat was probably the switching off of radars, as happened recently. The Army had thus to sit immobile, awaiting the coalition forces' raids. The most bitter defeat was probably the Safwan tent's document of capitulation and the pictures of Iraqi soldiers and officers waving their trousers and their white underclothes as a sign of surrender in the Saudi desert and around the Kuwaiti oil wells.

Certain victories are more shameful than defeats. The Baghdad dictator's victories are this kind. Without the illusions of victory and the truth of defeat, the Iraqi people care about this: If Security Council Resolution 688 stipulates clearly and unambiguously that the Iraqi people must be protected from its dictatorial ruler's suppression and his terrorist, repressive practices the barbarity of which has reached the level of destruction and genocide, how can this resolution be achieved and implemented through a mere night raid on a few scattered anti-aircraft missile batteries or on a few radars the

dictator switched off to give himself more pleasure in his exciting cat and mouse game? The troublemaking mouse does not hide in the Iraqis' pockets or hearts, but in the den of terrorism, repression, and banditry that violates law. He should be the real target of the international community and the coalition forces that represent it, which have the task of protecting the Iraqi people from the butchery of its dictatorial ruler.

The Iraqi people demand—and have the right to do so—the implementation of all the clauses of Resolution 688 at once, not in accordance with the ambiguous and confused policy of the carrot-and-stick approach of Baghdad's dictator. Equally important is the need for an effective action by the Iraqi opposition forces and nationalists. They should go directly to the arena and not be content, as some are, to simply observe the casualties inflicted on the dictator, who only brings more tragedies, catastrophes, and defeats to Iraq's historic dignity and national sovereignty.

Army Urged To Disobey Orders

NC1801163893 (Clandestine) *Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic* 1610 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Call, call, call. O sons of our heroic Iraqi Army: brother officers, noncommissioned officers, and honorable troops. Behold Iraq's dictator with his reckless acts and childish policies dragging you into a new war that contravenes international legality and UN Security Council and UN resolutions. It is a war that does not serve your interests or the good of the Iraqi populace and the region. It will only bring further calamities, destruction, and catastrophes to the Iraqi people. It is a war during which Iraq's dictator will again fail to attain any of his objectives. For this reason, it is the duty of all of you to organize your ranks to put an end to the Iraqi people's tragedy and the successive defeats that Baghdad's ruling regime has inflicted on you.

O honorable soldiers and officers, it is your turn to avenge your and your Army's dignity, which has been grievously harmed and lowered by Iraq's dictator.

Brother officer, refuse to carry out the orders given to you and seek your own and your nation's salvation. This day is the day for all the Iraqis to rid themselves of Baghdad's despot and his bloody regime.

Army Urged To Rebel

NC1801170293 (Clandestine) *Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic* 1613 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O sons of our valiant Iraqi Army: War is once again separating you from your kinsfolk and brothers throughout Iraq. The regime once again is massing forces and military vehicles against Iraq's Kurdistan and neighbor Kuwait. The regime once again is trying to use you as fuel for its failing, futile wars. Losing corporal [Defense Minister] 'Ali Hasan al-Majid is trying to push

you into a new battle against your kinsfolk in Iraq's Kurdistan, which has freed itself from Saddam Husayn's terrorism and absolute dictatorship.

O brother soldier: Reject the aggressive wars of the regime and join the ranks of your kinsfolk and brothers, whether in Kurdistan, southern Iraq, or central Iraq. Do not allow yourself to be a cheap tool in the hands of the mad dictator of Iraq. Remember that your kinsfolk in Kurdistan extended their arms to you during the 1991 popular uprising. Remember how the Kurdish revolution and your peshmerga brothers treated hundreds of thousands of military personnel of all ranks during their captivity. Rebel, my brother soldier, against orders: They are given by the lords of wars, destruction, and tragedies, who are gambling on your blood.

Ba'th Party National Command on 'Aggression'

JN1501173893 *Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic* 1500 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has urged Arab masses, Muslims, and freedom-loving people around the world, to live up to their militant and humanitarian responsibilities and speak out for Iraq and condemn the West and the United Nations for their double standard policies and hostile posture on the legitimate rights of Iraq and the Arab nation.

In a statement it issued today, the National Command said the imperialist West, in full view of the world and history, once again betrays the grudge it bears against Arabism and Islam and their incarnation—Iraq. Along with its vicious imperialist allies in England and France, the U.S. Administration committed open aggression on the Iraq of freedom, heroism—the Iraq of jihad and construction. They committed aggression against Iraq, which is holding out against the unjust blockade and sticking to a natural right to defend its sovereignty and independence and its national unity and its pan-Arab, cultural, and humanitarian role.

The statement continued: Two years after the ongoing aggression on Iraq began, its security, stability, and its renaissance and its drive to build its own capabilities, the arrows of the conspiracy have strayed and missed their targets and failed to break the will of the towering Iraq led by comrade leader mujahid Saddam Husayn. Every time Iraq aborts the aims of the aggression, the imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic allied forces are enraged, and persist in their line, thus demolishing and exposing the chapters of the ugly war of civilization in which imperialism is deploying all of its old and new tools.

The statement went on: This fresh aggression, coinciding as it does with the evil banishment of hundreds of strugglers from the land of Palestine, brings into focus the lack of credibility of the Western powers dominating the UN Security Council that never ceases to impersonate and falsify international legitimacy to harm Iraq. In the meantime, the Security Council and the United States and its allies look the other way when the Zionist

entity flouts UN resolutions, thereby showing the conspiracy against the Arab nation, the values of righteousness, freedom, and justice, as well as exposing the double standards, and driving the United Nations to the tight spot of an impasse at cross purposes with its objectives and the interests of nations and the advancement of humanity.

Thus the militant steadfastness of Iraq and the Palestinian resistance and support of the masses for the militant stands point to the features of the modern Arab revival and the road of salvation from hegemony and subordination despite the enormity of the external and internal challenges facing the pan-Arab struggle.

The national Command's statement said: Iraq has conveyed the message of jihad and reawakening and borne the burden of passing it on to all the honorable people and defending its principles, thus rekindling the spirit of defiance in the nation and stirred the forces of revival and the will for pan-Arab liberation.

The statement added: The battle Iraq is waging on behalf of the Arab nation should be a militant occasion to renew the pledge to the civilized steadfastness to deepen the unity of Arab struggle and to release energies that should create a new state of preparedness for jihad in the face of challenges and to line up behind Iraq and the Palestinian intifadah.

The statement urged Arab masses to measure up to their militant obligations using all means at their disposal to bring pressure to bear on their governments with a view to breaking the iniquitous embargo and to work toward getting it lifted at international fora, now that all flimsy pretexts that led to its imposition on Iraq have gone.

Arab States Urged To Break Silence After U.S. Raid

PM1501115093 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Jan 93 p 1

[Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "Targeted Iraq"]

[Text] If some people believe it was justifiable for the Arabs to be divided over the U.S. destructive war against Iraq the January before last, it will not be justifiable for them this time to maintain silence about a new strike against Baghdad, let alone take part in it.

In the first incident Iraq had invaded the state of Kuwait, which—with its money and oil—is adored by many of those who are after wealth and aid. But this time Iraq has attacked no one, nor has it violated international resolutions. The only crime it has committed is its dispatch of a group of workers to collect the contents of its warehouses in the part which the United States severed

from Umm Qasr port and granted to Kuwait in the new border demarcation rejected by Iraq—by both government and opposition.

And just as the battle was unequal in its first round, it will not be otherwise in the second. This is because Iraq has been under siege for two years, its main weapons are destroyed, its aircraft are old and exhausted and need spare parts, and the good and new ones were smuggled to Iran to protect them but they have not been returned, nor does it seem that they will be; and any talk about rebuilding the Iraqi Armed Forces is just designed to boost morale.

As is known, Iraq used to import its military needs from the Soviet Union, which no longer exists. What is more, Russia's leader, Yeltsin, has become more hostile toward Iraq, and perhaps the Arabs, than President Bush himself. Even if Djibouti wants to send arms to Iraq, it will not be able to do so because of the siege, which does not allow the delivery of medicine and food, let alone arms!

But this does not mean that Iraq is not capable of confrontation and of defending itself. It is not occupying anyone's territory and is confronting an aggression against its territory, airports, and missile batteries—which in itself is a motive for steadfastness, resistance, and death defiance.

The U.S. Administration made a mistake when it resorted to the military solution in the first incident, and here it is doing the same thing again without the existence of a moral or legal reason. And just as the 40-day raids failed to settle the battle with Iraq and topple its regime, it is difficult to imagine the success of a limited military operation in this connection, unless the United States and its allies decide to send their forces to Baghdad—which is very costly.

When Faysal al-Husayni and the Palestinian delegation accompanying him met with President Bush in the White House after the conclusion of the eighth round of bilateral negotiations, Al-Husayni asked the U.S. President to use his "muscle" against Israel to force it to implement the UN Security Council resolution on the Palestinian deportees. But President Bush said he could do nothing in the transition phase because of his lack of powers and his inability to take major decisions. He advised the Palestinians to wait until Clinton takes office. Two days later Bush took major decisions, but in Somalia, and here he is taking a bigger decision to launch a war against Iraq.

In this confrontation Iraq is defending the Arab nation's dignity and exposing the blatant U.S. hostility toward anything that is Arab. And if some Arab regimes see anything other than this, all the Arab peoples will stand by oppressed, targeted Iraq, which is confronting the arrogance of power singlehandedly, while the Arab armies armed to the teeth are serving imperialism, guarding Israel's borders, and their leaders are distressed by any Iraqi missile that lands in Tel Aviv more than the Israelis themselves.

If these armies and these leaders have not been moved by the tears of an Iraqi child looking for a drop of milk or medicine, they will never move even if the vanguards of foreign invasion move into their countries. But it is a situation which will not last.

Envoy Informs Arab League of Coalition Aircraft Violations

JN1601083993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0807 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League general secretariat that U.S., British, and French planes violated Iraq's airspace on Tuesday and Wednesday [12 and 13 January], and that these planes flew from military bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In a message to Arab League Secretary General 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, said that the U.S., British, and French planes carried out 200 aggressive air sorties from these bases over the two days. He stressed that these violations pose a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Iraq's representative requested that the message be distributed to the Arab League member states to educate them about these regrettable facts.

Arab League Informed of 14-15 Jan 'Violations'

JN1801151093 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 18 (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League Secretariat-General of the continued U.S.-British-French violations of Iraqi airspace.

In two messages to the Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative said those violations formed a serious threat to Iraq's sovereignty and national unity.

The messages said enemy planes on January 14 flew 80 sorties coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and 93 others on Friday [15 January].

Dismissal of U.S. Military Commander Reported

JN1501212293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2050 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Brother citizens: We have just received the following: Sources in Washington have said that the U.S. Department of Defense has dismissed from service the U.S. commander who was in charge of planning and

supervising the aggressive raids on southern Iraq on the night of 13 January because of the failure of these raids to achieve their objectives.

It is to be recalled that U.S. President Bush continued to boast over the past two days, saying that the U.S. raids were completely successful. However, it is too hard to go on lying. Bush has been known as a liar. He earned this title during last year's election campaign; U.S. voters gave him this title, which was one of the reasons of his defeat in the U.S. presidential elections.

Fuel Purchases Limited to Cars

JN1501122693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1150 GMT 15 Jan 93

["Announcement" carried within the regularly scheduled 1130 GMT newscast]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have the following announcement from the Oil Ministry:

In order to offer the best service possible to the dear citizens as regards the supply of gasoline and other fuels available through gas stations, the Oil Ministry urges the brother citizens to cooperate with the ministry in maintaining a steady flow of gasoline. Citizens should refrain from buying fuel in plastic or metal containers since this is both dangerous and results in congestion at gas stations.

The ministry has issued instructions to gas stations not to fill any kind of container with fuel. Only cars will be supplied with fuel.

The Oil Ministry wishes to assure the brother citizens that it does not plan to take measures to ration gasoline or the fuel supply, and that it will continue to make these fuels available through gas stations, which will remain open day and night.

Supply Rations Ordered Increased 'as of February'

JN1801151493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, we have just received the following:

Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has ordered the following:

1. Increasing each citizen's ration of supplies as of February 1993 as follows:

A. One kg of flour, so that each ration shall become 9 kg instead of 8 kg.

B. One quarter kg of rice, so that each ration shall become 1.75 kg instead of 1.5 kg.

C. One quarter kg of sugar, so that each ration shall become 1.5 kg instead of 1.25 kg.

D. One hundred and 25 grams of vegetable oil, so that each ration shall become 0.50 kg instead of 375 grams.

2. The ration for the months of February and March shall be distributed as one installment, and the flour ration shall be distributed in two installments.

Opposition Forces Claim To Kill 8 Soldiers

LD1701104893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Iraqi opposition forces attacked a patrol unit of the Iraqi regime in the province of al-Basrah, killing eight including two officers.

The Radio of Revolutionary Iraq [Radio-ye Eraq-e Enqelabi] announced the above news and added: The patrol unit had arrived in the Umm al-Zuhdi region in order to create fear and ransack the people.

IDF Closely Following Developments in Gulf*[Jerusalem TV]**TA1701194093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Jan 93*

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders told the cabinet today that they are following the situation in Iraq and that the feeling here is that developments can still be expected there. These have in fact already occurred. Our political correspondent, Gadi Sukenik, reports that the prime minister made it clear to the ministers that Israel is constantly being updated on U.S. plans. He said the defense establishment is preparing for any eventuality but without creating panic among the public and without disrupting daily life. The operation to replace gas masks will continue as planned.

Our Army affairs correspondent, Beni Liss, adds from IDF sources that the Army is closely following developments in Iraq. Saddam Husayn has told the United Nations several times that he does not have surface-to-surface missiles, but experts believe that Iraq has several dozen missiles but only a few launchers. Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Barak, who is in the United States, is being updated by the Americans and Israel. He is due to return home tomorrow.

Following the military activity in Iraq, the IDF spokesman announced tonight that the defense establishment continues to follow closely developments in Iraq and to prepare accordingly. There is no change in the evaluation that the events are not expected to go beyond the Gulf. The spokesman calls on the public to continue routine life.

Says Chances of Missile Attack 'Low'*TA1801155993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jan 93**[Report by Army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik]*

[Text] As in all the previous U.S. attacks on Iraq, Israel is being given early warnings of what is going to happen. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is alerted by the United States hours before each attack, as are certain other Middle East countries. A blackout has been imposed on the contents of the message to Israel. Army sources believe that the tension in the Gulf is still not over and that the Iraqis are likely to keep tension high. In other words, they will not accede to UN limitations. On the other hand, we stress that these are merely evaluations.

One evaluation that has not changed is the repercussions of Gulf events on Israel. The defense establishment continues to say that it is a pinpointed, limited, American attack and the chances are low that missiles will be launched at Israel at this stage. The public is not called on to take any steps.

Arab Democratic Party Condemns Attacks Against Iraq*TA1801125393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 18 Jan 93*

[Text] Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah's Arab Democratic Party has condemned the attacks against Iraq. The party called on the United Nations to change its aggressive attitude toward Iraq and demanded that the Security Council put a halt to the allied infringements on Iraqi sovereignty.

Rabin Visit to U.S. Said Tied to Proposal on Peace Process*TA1901102593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jan 93 pp A1, A8**[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Shlomo Shamir, and news agencies]*

[Excerpts] An invitation to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to visit the United States during Bill Clinton's first month in power is tied "to Israel's ability to submit a serious proposal with regard to the peace process," the Israeli Embassy in Washington reported following talks with the president-elect's aides.

Political sources in Jerusalem say it is now absolutely clear it will be impossible to resume the peace talks if the problem of the deportees is not solved, which is why Clinton's men have been hinting that there would be no sense in a meeting between the two men as long as the deportees are still in the encampment in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, Clinton's aides said, if a meeting with the Israeli prime minister may help promote the multilateral talks, they will try to find an earlier date on the U.S. President's agenda.

U.S. officials dealing with the multilateral talks told Israeli diplomats that at the moment they see no sense in sending invitations to the next round of multilateral talks, which was scheduled to open on 9 February. According to them, a negative reply on the part of the Arabs might complicate the situation and, therefore, they would rather wait for developments regarding the deportees. [passage omitted]

UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan is due in Israel today in what appears to be yet another effort by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to find a solution to the problem of the deportees before presenting his report to the Security Council. Gharekhan will stay in Israel two days.

Senior cabinet ministers said the prime minister has no intention of making any far-reaching concessions and mentioned that the political level is waiting for the ruling of the High Court of Justice.

Off the record, the ministers said they hope the Supreme Court will deliver the government from the tough situation it ran into following the deportations. [passage omitted]

Rabin Tells Cheney Danger of War With Iraq 'Declined'

TA1701184593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, sent a farewell letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney tonight. Rabin praised Cheney's support for Israel during the Gulf war. Our Army affairs correspondent, Netan'el Semrik, reports that Rabin mentioned in his letter that the danger of war between Israel and Iraq has declined.

Chief of Staff on Cooperation With U.S., Iraq, Deportees

TA1601105893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, by Arye Golan in Washington on 15 January—recorded]

[Text] [Baraq] My impression is that the foundations of cooperation and understanding between us and the Americans, as well as the foundations of U.S. compliance with Israel's security needs, which is based on their understanding of their own interests and on the fabric of common values....[changes thought] I believe that this basis will be preserved also in the transition from the present to the next administration, and that we will witness the continuation of deep, intimate, and productive cooperation between the two sides in the future too.

[Golan] Are you convinced, Mr. Chief of Staff, that no Scuds will fall on our heads if this conflict between Iraq and the United States and allied forces continues?

[Baraq] There is nothing certain in this matter, surely not regarding Saddam Husayn. Technically speaking, I believe he has another several dozen missiles. I believe he still also has several launchers, or at least, we have no evidence to the contrary. Logically, in our opinion, he has no reason to fire at Israel. I cannot see what he can achieve by this, how this can be beneficial to him. Still, if I am mistaken, we will know what to do.

[Golan] Will we do something this time?

[Baraq] I do not think it will be either right or wise to elaborate on the subject.

[Golan] Mr. Chief of Staff, if the peace talks succeed and Israel withdraws to a certain distance on the Golan Heights—did you speak with or understand from the Americans that we will receive a compensation from them for the territory that we will leave?

[Baraq] I think the entire issue is not concrete at this stage. We do not discuss it at the IDF [Israel Defense

Forces] General Staff, and I surely do not find this subject worthy of a dialogue between me, in uniform, and U.S. officers or even the U.S. secretary of defense.

[Golan] Israel announced that several other Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members were expelled to Lebanon by mistake. Is there anything in this affair that you, the chief of staff, regret? Was haste here the work of the devil, as the Arabic saying goes?

[Baraq] Haste was called for by the parameters of implementing this deportation. The deportation itself, a very complex move from the organizational, legal, and logistical viewpoints, was carried out on very short notice by the commanders of the commands concerned, the Shin Bet, the Military Judge Advocate's Office, and Northern Command elements who dealt with the deportees' transfer to Lebanon under very harsh weather conditions, and in my opinion, in the best possible manner considering the circumstances. We had no doubt that mistakes could be made during such a process. We said in advance that errors will be corrected regarding anybody who was wronged or whose identification was mistaken.

[Golan] Now that you are aware of the international reaction and the complications involved, would you have repeated this act the same way?

[Baraq] I am convinced that the State of Israel and the defense establishment must be unwavering and undaunted in their struggle against Hamas and Islamic Jihad elements, that in the very complex conditions in which we operate we should not be deterred from furthering this struggle, using every means within Israeli law. The alternative, stopping the struggle, potentially means stepped up terror, more achievements for the terrorists who will increase their activity and be able to enlist more people, and graver blows dealt to Arabs, Israeli citizens, and security forces personnel.

[Golan] Mr. Chief of Staff, thank you very much.

Peres Says Saddam 'Must Become More Settled'

TA1801184093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has this comment on the Iraqi crisis.

[Begin Peres recording] Saddam Husayn was a danger, remains a danger, and as long as he will run Iraq will cause problems to his own people, its neighbors, and the rest of the world, and he must become a more settled and disciplined phenomenon. [end recording]

Peres Discusses Deportees, Syria, Arms Control

TA1501155893 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Rafi Reshef on the weekly "Musaf Hamusafim" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Reshef] Good afternoon, Foreign Minister Peres.

[Peres] And a very good afternoon to you.

[Reshef] Do you have any news? Do you already have any idea where the deportees will be transferred?

[Peres] Not yet. We are looking for a way to resolve this issue, which still remains on our agenda. Of course, in finding a solution we have no desire either to reward Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or punish ourselves. In other words, while we do not seek a confrontation with the United Nations, we also do not want to retract the message we sent out.

[Reshef] I assume that there are details you prefer not to reveal here, but have you received the impression that a solution is in sight?

[Peres] Not yet. We are still looking. This is not a simple issue. I told you that the solution we are looking for must be based on those two principles. In other words, Israel must not nullify the message it sent to those extremists, but on the other hand we must seek to prevent the United Nations from adopting resolutions that are unfavorable to us.

[Reshef] Yes, it is no secret that the UN secretary general mentioned, albeit if only in passing, the possibility of sanctions being imposed on Israel. Did you manage to soften his position a bit, or was it a tough meeting?

[Peres] No, it was not a tough meeting. It was business-like and candid. As you know, the secretary general's envoy will arrive in the middle of next week, so we have more time to continue dealing with the various proposals that are currently being considered.

[Reshef] Mr. Peres, would it be taking things too far to say that the deportations were carried out in a somewhat clumsy manner?

[Peres] I am not a literary critic. I do not deal with the past.

[Reshef] I do not quite understand why you consider this to fall within the domain of literary criticism?

[Peres] Because the criticism of past actions does not currently figure on our agenda. I assume that the government felt it had to take an extraordinary step and deliver a rapid and forceful message; however, I am not implying that such a feeling precludes adequate planning.

[Reshef] Nevertheless, you are the foreign minister. You were not in Israel when the vote was taken, and I believe that the public deserves to know your position on the matter.

[Peres] My position is that I bear responsibility for all cabinet decisions, and I will not pretend to be the clever one with the benefit of hindsight.

[Reshef] Mr. Peres, perhaps the history of your relationship with Rabin has placed you under some kind of constraint so that now you find it difficult to express reservations or criticism, or even sometimes to voice your own opinion?

[Peres] I see you are getting back to your favorite subject. Look, it must be understood for once and for all that we are working on and for an extremely complicated peace process. The situation right now is that the Palestinians have no majority rule and are being threatened by a minority. The majority's desire for peace has no military power or national authority, whereas the minority, which threatens the peace process, is willing to take up arms. The only one able to stop this Palestinian minority is the State of Israel. This is a thankless and very unpleasant job. We keep telling the Palestinians: If you do not establish majority rule, you will become the victims of terror and violence. We continue trying to convince them to hold elections even before autonomy takes effect, and then their elected officials will have authority over their people, conduct the negotiations, and eventually be in charge of the autonomy.

[Reshef] Hayim Ramon told the Knesset plenum that we are making great progress in the negotiations with Syria. Would I be right in saying that the much anticipated breakthrough with Syria came in the first six months of Labor's rule?

[Peres] I would employ more cautious language and say that the next round of negotiations with Syria will start at a point that is much closer to peace than before, but the difficult decisions still lie ahead of us. Without making tough decisions it is doubtful we shall achieve a breakthrough.

[Reshef] Would you estimate today that we will succeed in signing a full peace agreement with Syria within four years?

[Peres] I believe that the time frame could even be shorter. If we make the right decisions, there is a real chance of reaching peace with Syria.

[Reshef] What do you mean by the right decisions?

[Peres] Decisions that will permit us to bridge the gaps that still remain between the Syrian and Israeli positions. These gaps must be bridged jointly by Syria and us.

[Reshef] In other words, it will be full peace on their part in return for a more or less complete withdrawal on our part?

[Peres] For its part, Syria must offer us real peace, the problem is not only about how full it will be. As far as we are concerned, it will require reaching the appropriate conclusions in time. I do not wish to preempt the negotiators with any unwarranted hints; however, I must warn both myself and my colleagues that the path is strewn with the need to make difficult decisions. I would even say that what we must pay heed to now is not the price of peace but its nature, form, and content. The situation in the Middle East remains very complicated; in fact, the Middle East and the Muslim world are practically one and the same, both physically and ideologically. There are approximately one billion Muslims in the world. There is lot of hunger out there, and the high birth rate creates more hunger. They are on the verge of obtaining nonconventional weapons. They do not have a lot of patience, and the entire world, us included, face the

triple phenomenon of fundamentalism, deprivation, and the threat of nuclear weapons.

[Reshef] Let me focus for one moment exclusively on the nonconventional weapons threat. Today, when people speak of Middle East disarmament, are they talking about freezing the situation as it is now, or is Israel also prepared to disarm itself of whatever it has, assuming it has anything?

[Peres] No one has reached this issue yet or felt a need to discuss it. What we are saying to our Arab neighbors and to the entire world is that one cannot start building a house from the second floor. One must start from the first floor and work upwards. The first floor is peace, and the second floor is a Middle East completely free of nonconventional weapons and missiles. No country will have such weapons, and the process will be mutually supervised by all the countries participating in the cleaning up of the region. So, we are saying: Come and sign a real peace agreement, because how can we have mutual supervision if our borders are closed to each other. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Foreign Minister Musa Arrives for Visit 17 Jan

TA1701122393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1138
GMT 17 Jan 93

[Report from Ben-Gurion Airport by Sheli Yehimovich; remarks by Musa in English—live]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa landed at Ben-Gurion Airport a few minutes ago. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres received the guest with a short ceremony at which 'Amr Musa made a brief statement:

[Begin Musa recording] It is a visit of four or five hours, but we have a lot to discuss and many issues to probe. I look forward to my meetings with the foreign minister, and then with the prime minister to whom I am going to convey a message from President Mubarak and to continue to discuss certain problems of bearing on the actual developments in the area, the process of peace and the future of the region. [end recording]

We had time to ask 'Amr Musa one question only: Does he think the continuation of the peace process should be made conditional on the resolution of the deportees problem? Here is what he replied:

[Begin Musa recording] We are for the resumption of the peace process as soon as possible, because a lot of hopes are pinned on that process and it is in our interests to guarantee the success of that process. This would need also to clear the atmosphere of certain problems, but I am not going to go beyond that. It is just a few words to say hello to you, and to thank the foreign minister for the reception and for the kind words. [end recording]

Speaking of certain problems, Foreign Minister Musa was undoubtedly referring to the deportees. Egypt attributes great significance to the deportee issue, and in

President Mubarak's view, the political negotiations cannot continue as long as that issue remains unresolved. The Egyptian foreign minister is slated to present the prime minister and foreign minister with proposals devised by Egypt.

Several minutes before the Egyptian foreign minister's plane landed, I spoke with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Let us hear the recording:

[Begin recording] [Yehimovich] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrives today. Do you believe he will bring proposals that will solve the deportee problem?

[Peres] Since this visit was made at the initiative and the request of the Egyptian foreign minister, we are naturally waiting to hear what he has to say.

[Yehimovich] Do you share the assessment that the Palestinians will not return to the bilateral negotiations unless the problem of deportees is resolved?

[Peres] I do not want to guess, but I hope they will not link the two, because that will be the biggest error of their lives. What is the connection between these two issues? What Israel was trying to do was clear the way for peace, rather than postpone the peace process.

[Yehimovich] Do you believe the United States will use its veto power to ban a drastic anti-Israeli resolution when the Security Council holds a vote on this issue?

[Peres] I hope it will be unnecessary, and I estimate the United States is taking action to avert it.

[Yehimovich] What do you know about the issues the Egyptian foreign minister will want to discuss?

[Peres] We will know nothing until we hear him.

[Yehimovich] Thank you. [end recording]

Peres Remarks on Deportees

TA1701140993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1346
GMT 17 Jan 93

[News conference by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, outside the foreign minister's residence in Jerusalem, in English; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Peres] ...We didn't decide to detain the deportees. From our point of view, the deportees have the right to move wherever and whenever they want to. The ones who really put the deportees in a camp is not Israel but Lebanon, because many of them do have passports, and from our point of view, they have the right to move freely to wherever they want. And then we have also told the United Nations that there is no argument about their right to come back to Israel. The problem is when, because if you shorten the when, then there is no punishment, and there is no message.

[Musa] If I may say a few words to comment on what the foreign minister has just said. He, in fact, outlined an

important point when he said that there is no argument as to the right to return, which is a phrase or rule that both of us share.

[Peres, interrupting] I mean the deportees.

[Musa] The deportees, yes. We are talking only about the deportees. So, we hope that we can really move forward on this question in order to pave the way, as I have said, to a better atmosphere for the peace process to proceed.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Peres, are you closer now than you were before lunch to a resolution [words indistinct]?

[Peres] Well, I wouldn't like to describe it in mileages, but there was a meeting of minds. We tried to reach an agreement.

Musa Extends Visit

TA1701165993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on a news conference held by Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Musa following their meeting—live]

[Text] [Gutman] The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has ended. Let us hear their remarks.

[Rabin, in progress] ...Egypt, as we did with other elements too. I welcome the fact that the Egyptian president decided to send Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa for a visit here. I think this is how things should be done between countries that live in peace—and there is peace between Egypt and Israel—clarifying positions even when there are disagreements with the aim of seeking ways of bridging the disagreements if possible.

[Musa asked a question in Arabic, with Gutman's remarks superimposed] While 'Amr Musa answers questions in Arabic, let us mention some of the remarks he made earlier, at the end of his first meeting with Prime Minister Rabin. 'Amr Musa said that he had discussed the peace process and the deportation issue, and Prime Minister Rabin emphasized that reference is not to deportees but to people who were removed from Israel.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Rabin, after the meeting with Mr. Musa, do you still believe that the next round of peace talks will begin on time?

[Rabin] First, a date has not yet been set for the resumption of the bilateral talks, since this should after all be done by the Americans. I do not know whether the new administration will decide to hold the talks during its first month in power, since it should be remembered that the month of Ramadan begins around 24 February. Last year, there were no bilateral talks during Ramadan. I do not know what stance the Arab countries and the delegations to the bilateral talks will adopt regarding this month, and it is difficult for me to assume that the new

U.S. administration will have time to consolidate positions during its first 20 or 30 days. Still, all this is tantamount to speculation. The fact is that there is no date as yet for the resumption of the bilateral talks.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Mr. Musa, would you say that the ideas that you brought to Israel today regarding those expelled have been received with an open mind?

[Musa, in English] [Words indistinct] received with an open mind, definitely, but this does not mean that I want to say that the prime minister has accepted this or that idea. We have discussed ideas, and that is all.

[Gutman, translates and continues] Prime Minister Rabin and 'Amr Musa have exchanged handshakes, and Musa is now leaving the Prime Minister's Office. The Egyptian foreign minister said he came here to discuss the peace process and the deportees issue, expressing his hope that action can be taken to solve the problem and improve the atmosphere with regard to the peace process. Prime Minister Rabin welcomed the fact that Egypt and Israel have chosen to clarify problematic regional matters through peaceful means, through a dialogue. He said that reference is not to deportees but to people who were removed. In any case, Musa raised proposals, but Israel adheres to its previous decisions, namely, the deportation decision is not canceled. The two parties confirmed that Musa relayed to Rabin a message on the deportees matter.

[Later in the IDF Radio newsreel Gutman adds: "Musa decided to extend his visit in Israel and to meet with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres again this evening." Also, following his meeting with Musa, Peres said: "I see three possibilities here—the legal, the political, and monetary. Legally, each one of the deportees can appeal, and the entire issue is now pending the ruling by the High Court of Justice, and we will honor any decision made by this court. From the humanitarian viewpoint, Israel has already made some gestures. It will continue to pursue humanitarian, truly humanitarian rather than political, things. Politically, I think it will be a mistake to reward Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and this is no reason to jeopardize the peace process or to clash with the United Nations." Musa for his part said, in English: "I believe the peace process will be greatly helped by the solution of this problem" of the deportees. He added, "All the steps taken, either on humanitarian, or legal, or political grounds will be encouraged."]

Comments on Deportees

TA1701174393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Comments in English by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin following their meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 17 January—recorded]

[Text] [Musa] I wish to thank the prime minister for the very important and thorough discussion we have had in

more than one hour. We have discussed the peace process and how to promote conditions conducive to the achievement of results on all tracks, bilateral as well as multilateral. Also, the question of deportees came up, and we exchanged ideas. I hope that we can do something to ease the problem or solve it, and to help the peace process and the atmosphere around it.

[Rabin] No doubt, as you can imagine, the issue of what the foreign minister called the deportees—and we call them the temporarily removed Palestinians or members of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad—that as you know the cabinet decided to temporarily remove them to one and a half or two years, and it's not the kind of deportation that existed in the past and the way that we conducted a deportation in the past. [sentence as heard] Certain ideas were brought by

the foreign minister. As you know, the Government of Israel sticks to its resolution, to its decisions.

Concludes Visit

TA1701201193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening concluded his lightning visit to Israel with differences over the deportee issue remaining. During the visit, he conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and twice with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The two made it clear to Musa that the more than 400 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees will not be permitted to return here before their expulsion terms expire. It seems that Jerusalem now believes that the peace talks will be resumed only in late March or April. [passage omitted]

King Expresses 'Bitterness, Sadness' Over Raids

JN1801212393 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] His majesty the king returned home this evening after a three-day visit to Oman and talks with Sultan Qabus. His majesty was welcomed by Their Royal Highnesses Prince 'Abdallah, Prince Faysal, and Prince Ghazi, the prime minister, and other officials. The chief of the Royal Court and the chief chamberlain, who accompanied his majesty on the visit, also returned to Amman.

His majesty expressed regret over the deterioration of the situation in Iraq, saying no one could approve of the use of force. Speaking to reporters at the airport, his majesty called for preserving Iraq's unity and territorial sovereignty.

[Begin recording] [Husayn, in progress] ...feeling deep anger, which I believe is what is felt by Arabs throughout the Arab world, that matters have deteriorated to this point. Nobody can be happy with the use of force in this region. And as far as Iraq is concerned, we are with the Iraqi people, with the unity of Iraq, with the sovereignty of Iraq over its territories and airspace, and we believe that it is up to the people to decide where they go and how they go. We are very, very sorry that conditions have deteriorated to this point, and we mourn those who have fallen and are falling as a result of the recent deteriorating situation.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Majesty, at one point the United States....

[Second reporter, interrupting] Do you direct your anger at any one party, or the leaders of both Iraq and the United States and the United Nations? Where would you direct your anger?

[Husayn] I believe that I, more than any, probably from the outset tried to address the problems that we faced and the crisis that we faced in 1990 within the Arab family. But, unfortunately, we were unable to do so, and I believe that we share a great part of the blame within the Arab world itself for what has happened when we denied ourselves the chance to address a serious crisis that we faced by ourselves, and to resolve the problem peacefully. On the other hand, I have a feeling that the chances were never exploited fully to resolve and address these problems peacefully and through dialogue, and obviously we are very, very disturbed and distressed at what is happening right now.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, do you think the Arab leaders would handle the situation differently than in 1990?

[Husayn] Nineteen-ninety is behind us. Let's hope, somehow, that we can see a return of the Arab nation to being a nation and stop the fragmentation and stop the damage, and stop the disintegration of the nation to which we belong.

[Reporter] Does this crisis thrust Jordan in an awkward position, and have you had any contacts with the incoming administration in the United States?

[Husayn] I haven't had the opportunity of any contacts, but I look to the future with hope that this will be the case, and I say so despite the bitterness and sadness of this moment. I say so as an old friend of the United States, as well.

[Reporter] Do you have....[changes thought] Does this put Jordan in an awkward position diplomatically?

[Husayn] I do not know that there is anything that I could say in regard to this particular question. It certainly is a moment of sorrow for all of us, and anger. If it does not appear under the surface, I believe it is there in the hearts of Arabs everywhere who feel that they have lost the ability to address their own problems by themselves, and who feel that the Arab nation is being fragmented and violated in this way.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, is Jordan going to attend the bilateral peace talks or the multilaterals if the plight of deportees is unsolved?

[Husayn] I can't say. I've been away for the last 48 hours. So, I really don't know what has happened on this particular issue, but we obviously are also extremely disturbed by what is happening in the occupied territories and by what is happening to Palestinians who have been driven out of their homes and land, and who have been within the United Nations and the world to try to redress what has happened to them so far.

[Reporter] Do you feel that the term double standard which is often applied here, does it apply in the circumstances, in your view, comparing the Palestinians on the mountaintop in Lebanon with the Iraqi people?

[Husayn] Obviously one problem seems to receive a lot more attention than another, although the other is a very chronic and an old one, and maybe the root cause of instability in this region. What I believe, we are looking toward living in a better world. We have to agree on principles and standards and ideals, and apply them everywhere equally. This is our only hope for the future.

[Reporter] Do you have a message for the president of Iraq or either the new or old President of the United States?

[Husayn] Well, I probably am not hiding a fact when I say that we haven't been able to see eye to eye with the Iraqi leadership for quite a while. In fact, since our efforts failed to achieve anything, and I can't blame the Iraqi leadership alone, because it was a case of our failure again with our Arab brethren at the same time. And I am referring to 1990, but since then, we haven't really been able to understand why actions were taken, why reactions were taken. Nobody sought our advice, and nobody listened to our advice, unfortunately.

[Reporter] Could you tell us if the United States, or any other member of the Security Council, have sought to pressure or convince countries like Jordan or other Arab nations, (?moderate) Arab nations?

[Husayn] I believe that Jordan has stood throughout its history with its head held high. We have never succumbed to a pressure, and we've always said sincerely and honestly what we believe in and we felt in the interest, not of today but of tomorrow, and of the future of people in this region and the world. Thank you. [end recording]

Prince Hasan Views Justification for Raid

JN1601001693 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by an unidentified CNN reporter in Atlanta on 15 January—recorded; carried within the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] [Reporter] Your nation this week delivered the strongest criticism of the allied raid on Iraq, using words like regret and reprehension, and it seemed that other Arab nations wanted to sort of look the other way, and they were discreet in their comments. Is it your opinion or what do you said to those who might feel that Jordan is falling out of step with the United Nations over the issue of Iraq?

[Hasan] I don't think that Jordan is falling out of step with the principle, effectively, of reminding the world of the plight of the Iraqi people because effectively, the action that was taken today was taken under the rubric of proportionate self-defense and I really don't see proportionate self-defense going beyond removing effectively any sort of threat to allied planes in the area. A hundred planes were used, the tremendous allied presence in the region. And, if it goes beyond that, I really wonder what kind of an inheritance President Clinton is going to have to cope with. If the first shocks of the Gulf war were not enough, why should the second and third shocks effectively bring Iraq to reason as we've been told?

[Reporter] The strongest element in the criticism so far has been that the United Nations is showing a double standard. What would you, sir, have the United Nations do?

[Hasan] Well, I would have the participant member states of the United Nations play a far more active role in discussing the last genocide in Bosnia, a far more active role in criticizing effectively actions taken by Israel in term of expulsion of Palestinians for example, in the case that we have followed to date, and indeed a much more active role in the whole package of human rights, including clearly economic and social rights. But I want to make it very clear that the double standards refers to the fact that the man in the street feels effectively that there is not a serious United Nations position on these other issues, whereas immediate action is taken on any American impulse effectively to, and in particularly in

the last few days with the Bush administration, to correct an Iraqi position which leaves a tremendous legacy of bitterness, a very bitter aftertaste.

[Reporter] Just a few hours, a contingent of U.S. troops arrived in Kuwait to bolster the defenses there and the morale of the Kuwait people. What is your opinion of that? Should they be there?

[Hasan] Does it fit proportionate self-defense as Prime Minister John Major pointed out the other day: This is an act of proportionate self-defense. I don't know what effectively that presence there will do for the future of that immediate region. After all, the Gulf summit recently focused on self-defense between Gulf states. When will they effectively be able to defend themselves?

[Reporter] Do you think the United Nations has any justification whatsoever for that raid on Iraq?

[Hasan] Well, I think in terms of the secretary general's statement, yes, clearly they are acting within UN resolutions. However, there again is a gray area. How far do you take UN resolutions? Do you bomb infrastructure? Do you bomb beyond the targets that have been dictated? Does this constitute proportionate self-defense? And indeed after all the UN is responsible also for the plight of the Iraqi people. Today we are told 86 million are still to be agreed upon by UN agencies for the plight of the people of southern Iraq. We are still talking about 46,000 children dead, and we are talking about continued undiluted misery forced on the people of Iraq. I wonder really when we will wake up to the fact that common security means people's welfare.

[Reporter] Are we closer to Iraqi compliance, do you think, as a result of this attack, or perhaps even closer to greater conflict?

[Hasan] I think that the likelihood of greater intransigence is very much there, but let's hope that the United States, in the months ahead, and the Iraqi nation can focus on UN resolutions, and maybe depersonalize the issue a little.

[Reporter] What do you think? Your experience in knowing what you know, Saddam Husayn is that he will become more intransigent?

[Hasan] Well, that is what I meant by depersonalizing the issue. I don't want to refer to personalities, either President Bush or Saddam Husayn, and rather focus effectively on stabilizing the region.

[Reporter] We turn to the Middle East peace process and ask your opinion in light of the situation this week against Iraq, and in light of the deportees still in southern Lebanon. What is your view about process? Where does it stand?

[Hasan] I think that we need stock-taking effectively of the whole peace process, particularly in the first few months of the new administration in the United States. We don't want to be marginalized. And as far as the

issues of course concerned deportees it is an important issue which has to be attended to, the humanitarian issue, as well as the political one. But let's look at the whole gamut of multilateral and bilateral talks. We say effectively that those packages whether of human rights, refugees, Jerusalem, the cultural and human issues need to be attended to, and we don't have much time, particularly with the mood changing in the region.

[Reporter] But you believe the peace process is still alive?

[Hasan] It's a miracle that it survived so far, and that why I think that we need greater attention from the sponsor.

Foreign Minister Reacts to Iraqi Raid

JN1801112193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said that the missile attack on Iraq last night has revealed a difference within the allied bloc concerning this operation.

In a statement to the Jordanian news agency, he repeated the call for dialogue between the United Nations and Iraq to resolve the pending bilateral problems and to keep away from military escalation, especially since this escalation does not serve any objective or purpose at all. He stressed that the disputed issues can be resolved through dialogue between the concerned parties.

The minister pointed out that the Jordanian position on these provocative actions was expressed by his excellency the prime minister a few days ago.

Lower House Deputies React to U.S. Raids

JN1801073293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jan 93 pp 1,2

[By Ayman al-Safadi, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—Members of the Lower House of Parliament Sunday described the Jan. 13 U.S. air strike against Iraq and the House entrusted its Foreign Affairs Committee with drafting a statement condemning what some deputies described as "barbarous aggression" aimed at stifling the rebuilding process in the war-ravaged country.

The House also decided to convene a special session to discuss deputies' demands that Jordan withdraw from the Arab-Israeli peace talks and Parliament protest the U.S. air raid on Iraq at international organisations as well as a call on the Arab League to initiate reconciliatory efforts among Arab states.

The decision came after many deputies made strong statements in support of Iraq and characterised the United States as the major enemy of the Arab World.

Calling on the House to condemn "the barbarous aggression on Iraq," Deputy Faris al-Nabulsi contrasted the swiftness of American action towards Iraq with Washington's silence on Israel's violation of United Nations Security Council resolution demanding the repatriation of over 400 Palestinians it expelled on Dec. 17.

Deputy Husni al-Shayyab proposed that the House issue a statement exposing the "double standards" of the United States, which, he said, launched the attack on Iraq without Security Council authorisation.

"The statement should condemn the United States' position on the (Palestinian) evictees," he said, pointing to U.S. threats to veto any U.N. move to activate Article VII of its charter and enforce sanctions on Israel for refusing to abide by Security Council Resolution 799 on the expelled Palestinians.

Saying that the United States is the "obvious enemy" of the Arabs, Deputy Husayn Mujalli questioned the viability of continuing the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah demanded that Jordan send a letter to the U.N., informing it that "we are not ready to applaud the rules of the jungle that govern it." Dr. al-'Akayilah urged Jordan to withdraw from the peace talks.

"I second the motions to issue a statement condemning (the strike on Iraq) even though it will not be worth more than the ink with which it is written but I ask that the government take practical measures to lift the sanctions on food and medical supplies to Iraq," Deputy Salim al-Zu'bi said.

Mr. al-Zu'bi, who chairs the House's Judicial Committee, said that the number of trucks transporting food to Baghdad had gone down from 600 to 60 a day and asked the government "to address this issue."

Deputy Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah echoed calls to stand by Baghdad "because defending Iraq means defending ourselves and aggression against it is against us all."

But "how can we condemn the attack when we know that the government is conducting joint military exercises with America," controversial Islamist Deputy Layth Shubaylat said.

"Do these exercises fall within the framework of friendship with Iraq?" the deputy asked. [passage omitted]

House Condemns 'Continued Aggression'

JN1801214793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The House of Representatives issued a statement today in which it appealed to popular representatives and world parliaments to clearly oppose oppression and aggression. The statement denounces the continued aggression against the Iraqi people and civilian Iraqi

establishments, questioning the silence of the United Nations and the international community over what is happening.

The statement says that what is being applied against the Iraqi people conflicts with international legitimacy and the ethics and rules of integration among states, regardless of their size.

The House of Representatives statement condemns the continued double standard used in applying certain criteria and resolutions against the Arabs alone. It also appeals to the fraternal Arab peoples and governments to evaluate the sweeping danger and the wicked conspiracies, which will not spare anyone, to fully support Iraq's people and the unity of its territory, to forget the traces of the past, and to deal with their present and future as dictated by their Arabism, religion, culture, heritage, and morals.

House Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat had received a message from Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, in which he urged world parliamentarians to support the Iraqi people, who are being subjected to the severest inhuman treatment, and to pressure Western states to reconsider their positions toward Iraq to serve its people and achieve security and stability in the region and the world at large.

PETRA Political Editor Criticizes Aggression

JN1801185793 Amman PETRA-JNA in English 1630 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Amman, Jan 18 (PETRA)—The political editor at Jordan news agency PETRA affirmed that the military aggression on Iraqi people yesterday assured us that the world needs leaders and politicians who are more keen on dialogue than force.

He added that this aggression reaffirmed that if this crisis continues the whole humanitarian society would be converted to murderers and victims under the slogans which claim keenness on international legitimacy and its resolutions in certain places and conflicts.

'PETRA' political editor said that everybody wishes that the world would be convinced that killing children and depriving people from their rights in security and safety is not the way to achieve a happy humanitarian family.

The editor concluded his comments on yesterday's military aggression saying that such an action resembles a frank call for extremism and hatred which arsenals can't siege and which will in turn threaten the whole world of blind anger at a time when all the human race hoped to see a fresh start after the end of cold wars and not the beginning of new wars for whom the victims are people, nations, ethics and manners.

Paper Criticizes 'Barbaric Aggression'

JN1801093593 Amman SAWT Al-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Jan 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Washington's Nero Burns Iraqi Cities"]

[Text] It seems that Bush's administration is determined not to leave the White House before showing all its black hatred, and committing the ugliest crimes of this age by carrying out a mad barbaric aggression against sisterly Iraq.

It also seems that President Bush has caught the Nazis' hysteria and the disease of Rome's Nero by enjoying the burning of cities and civilian facilities, and annihilating human beings.

It seems that President Bush wanted to demolish the already fragile bridges between the United States and the Arab nation, and to set up a river of blood that leaves endless hatred and hostility. Otherwise, what is the meaning of shelling Baghdad and other Iraqi cities with the most modern and dangerous weapons of mass destruction? What is the meaning of this mad insistence on destroying Baghdad and the Iraqi civilian installations with Bush's blind missiles that are fired in a hysterical haphazard hate?

While launching these stray missiles on Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, President Bush is also launching them on the U.S. interests in the region.

The fires set by these missiles will reach the U.S. interests in this region because this mad barbaric aggression is not directed against Iraq alone but against the whole Arab nation.

President Bush and his administration will become aware that the weapons of mass destruction that his forces are firing from the air and sea will, first of all, assassinate the alleged international legitimacy, which is exploited to serve his ambitions and aggressive intentions against the nations. A legitimacy that uses more than one standard in dealing with the causes of nations and peoples is sure to become invalid and loses its credibility and the confidence of nations.

Bush will see that Iraq, which stood fast in face of the armies and weapons of more than 30 states, will not be harmed by Bush's blind weapons.

Jordan called for resolving the crisis through peaceful means, hoping to avoid further sufferings and fires, but President Bush insisted on concluding his tenure by committing more crimes of the age against this nation. History, which recorded the ugly pages of Nazi Hitler, will not forget to record Bush's uglier pages.

Paper Sees Application of 'Undue Force'

JN1901103893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jan 93 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Husayn's Angry Words Mirror Anger of Nation"]

[Text] Arabs and Muslims must share the feelings of sadness, anger, and pain expressed by His Majesty King Husayn upon his return home from a visit to brotherly Oman in reaction to the application of undue force against an Arab Muslim people that has been under siege for two and a half years now.

King Husayn was speaking for all the Arabs when he stated that the present sorry developments call for all of us to say loud and clear that the Arabs had it coming to them when they failed to resolve their problems for themselves, thus making room for others to meddle in an Arab concern.

As the West starts fresh hostilities against a brotherly people under siege, deploying all the weapons in its arsenal, Arab leaders and governments are obligated to come out strongly for Iraq's territorial integrity, unity, and sovereignty over its soil and in its airspace. The Arabs should come out strongly for a speedy end to the ominous darkness enveloping the Arab nation.

King Husayn's anger over what is happening to Iraq and its people is shared throughout the Arab world. In the meantime, some other Arab leaders shelter themselves behind flimsy walls of silence, or appear perplexed, worried, or skeptical. The unwarranted, unprovoked aggression against a brotherly people adds up to aggression against the entire Arab nation, which, even if at times remains passive toward injustice, cannot possibly remain so forever.

If we in Jordan are so incensed and pained by the ongoing brazen Western aggression against the brotherly Iraqi people, it is because we have all along been warning of the consequences of inviting outside intervention in Arab concerns, and because in the feverish prelude to the Gulf war we argued strongly for an Arab solution to a purely Arab problem in order to hold off outside interference.

Under the circumstances, Jordan, which has kept its cool and stuck to its principles even in the darkest moments of the crisis, has never wavered from the premise that opening channels of communication between brotherly capitals is the one option open to the Arab nation if it is to arrest a steady decline in its standing in the community of nations, regain its influence on the world scene, and put an end to a dark chapter burdened with distress, setbacks, divisions, and miscalculations.

King Leaves on Visit to Oman

JN1601111093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn today left Amman for the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit he will meet

with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and senior Omani officials. [passage omitted]

In the presence of ministers, His Highness Prince 'Abdallah bin- Husayn took the constitutional oath before his majesty the king to act as regent during his majesty's absence from the country.

His majesty is accompanied by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd.

Paper Views Visit

JN1701124293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jan 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Husayn's Visit to Oman a Step Toward Arab Solidarity"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the sisterly Sultanate of Oman, and his talks with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus have extraordinary importance because they are held during difficult Arab circumstances.

The Arab nation is suffering from an unprecedented state of fragmentation at a time when plots and foreign pressures are increasing and international legitimacy is passing through a moral crisis. The Western hypocritical political behavior toward various international issues has become more exposed, and the policy of double standards has become clear in its ugly picture after the United Nations was turned into a tool that is used by the U.S. Administration to serve its interests the way it likes.

The talks His Majesty King Husayn held with his brother Sultan Qabus on current Arab developments and the distinguished bilateral relations were held within the continuous efforts of his majesty to restore cohesion to Arab fold. The efforts represent another sincere attempt to revive the solidarity that was paralyzed by the Gulf crisis and its results, the dishonest interferences in the nation's interests, and the attempt to influence its political decision.

Through his sharp vision and talented political analysis, His Majesty King Husayn discovered the dangers posed to the nation and the bleak future awaiting it since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. From the very beginning, he industriously and constantly tried to avoid internationalizing the crisis and to find an Arab solution to it. On this basis, Jordan adopted a genuine and distinguished pan-Arab position during the crisis and the aggression against Iraq. Jordan strongly rejected the foreign intervention and emphasized the Arab solution in spite of all the threats and pressures directed to it and the economic siege which is largely continuing until now.

After more than 30 months since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, and two years after the 30-state aggression against Iraq, the picture now looks clearer for those who closed their minds as a result of the shock and the U.S. pressures. They may discover now how correct Jordan's position was, and how concerned for the interests of the nation this position was.

Probably, what the U.S.-led Western allies are doing these days, represents an the escalation of aggression against Iraq and unjustified threats despite Iraq's commitments to all unjust international resolutions, emphasizing again that the international intervention in the crisis and the aggression against Iraq were only aimed at destroying the nation, robbing its wealth, and keeping it humiliated, divided, and dependent.

At a time when they are launching an aggression against Iraq, and go further in besieging it and trying to divide it and desecrate its national sovereignty, they ignore the Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question,

the last of which was the resolution which demands the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homeland. At the same time, they extend all forms of support for Israel which refuses to implement any UN resolution.

We emphasize again that the Arab nation has no alternative other than responding to Husayn's calls and his continuous efforts to restore solidarity and unity of ranks in face of the violent onslaught to which the nation is exposed by the forces of evil. This situation necessitates that the past page, with all its sorrows and tragedies, be turned.

Army Reinforces Checkpoints To Prevent New Israeli Crossing

NC1701200893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] The Lebanese Army reinforced its checkpoints in Mimis with personnel and vehicles this afternoon. This followed information from the occupied region that Israel had told citizens there through loudspeakers that it would open a new crossing between Hasbayya and liberated Mimis as a substitute for the Zummarayya crossing, which the occupation forces closed on 17 December after the deportation of the Palestinians.

Three Israeli helicopters flew over the region, and one of them landed near a militia position in 'Ayn Qinya hill overlooking the deportees' camp. A number of military personnel were seen disembarking and watching the region through binoculars. Lebanese military sources told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY that the Lebanese Army has taken all necessary measures to prevent the opening of a new crossing.

Refuses To Open Road to Civilians

NC1801113093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] There was a new development in the deportees issue today when Israeli occupation forces attempted to open an alternative crossing point to Zummarayya. The Lebanese Army frustrated the attempt. Our correspondent in western al-Biq'a reported that at 0900, an occupation forces' bulldozer accompanied by an armored personnel carrier, a military jeep, and a civilian vehicle led by about 10 infantry troops advanced beyond the militia post on Zughlah hill toward Mimis and removed an earth barrier from the public highway. The Lebanese Army had established an earth barrier at the southern approach to Mimis and placed its forces in the area on alert.

A short time ago our correspondent reported that at 0945 today, border militia sent civilian vehicles toward the earth barrier that the Lebanese Army established at the southern approach to Mimis, having removed the barrier the occupation forces built. The civilians arriving from the occupied border strip were accompanied by members of the Internal Security Forces, who crossed the barrier and held contacts with the Lebanese Army. The Army refused to open the road to the civilians, who were waiting at the southern approach to Mimis. Many people from the liberated villages gathered near the Lebanese Army in Mimis to express solidarity with the decision. The civilian vehicles left the area for Hasbayya at 1030.

Deportees Start 'Symbolic' Procession Toward Border 17 Jan

NC1701100193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees started a symbolic procession toward the Israeli border today.

The spokesman for the deportees said that the deportees will stage a walk toward the Zummarayya crossing point and stop midway between the crossing point and the camp. He said: We will dismantle our tents because we refuse to stay here. We insist that we be allowed to return to our homeland.

REUTER reports that the deportees have dismantled their tents, leaving behind food, heating equipment, and other belongings. The agency added that the deportees have started their procession.

Spokesman Says 'Severe Steps' Ahead

NC1901083593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees issue still overshadows every other topic. Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the brother deportees, yesterday told our correspondent that the 17 January procession will be followed by more severe steps.

Al-Rantisi said: We will not accept our camp remaining forever. Our objective for the procession was to tell the world that Palestine is our ultimate and only option. He said that if political and diplomatic efforts fail, the procession will be followed by more severe steps. He praised the Lebanese stand on the deportees' issue, saying he hoped the pressures will never change it. Dr. al-Rantisi said the Lebanese stance will put Israel in a difficult position and make Zummarayya the only door for our return to our land.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, spokesman for the brother deportees of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, said the deportees do not want to live in tents but want to return to their land and kin.

In a statement to our correspondent, Shaykh al-Shami said the procession was staged to attract the world's attention to this humanitarian cause. He said the Arabs should have taken daring and serious steps during their meeting in Cairo by suspending the negotiations and withdrawing the negotiators. Regrettably, their decisions were humiliating, serving the Zionist enemy, he added.

Buwayz Comments on Planned Visit to Tehran, Iraq, Deportees

NC1801194193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Report by Khalil Fulayhan]

[Text] Lawyer Faris Buwayz, minister of foreign and expatriate affairs, will leave for Tehran via Damascus tomorrow on an official visit to Iran in response to an invitation from his Iranian counterpart, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Buwayz will be accompanied by a delegation to include Ambassador Ja'far Mu'awi, the Foreign Ministry's economic affairs director; Ambassador Yusuf Arsanius, director of the foreign minister's office; and Amin Khuri and Ilyas Haddad, advisers to Buwayz.

Buwayz commented on the visit's aims and the military confrontation between the allies and Iraq.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, you will make an official visit to Iran tomorrow. Is this visit connected with the visit a Lebanese parliamentary delegation is making to Iran now?

[Buwayz] Actually, my visit to Tehran was planned long ago. It is connected with my first visit to Iran two years ago and Dr. Velayati's visit to Lebanon last year. It involves following up on several issues of mutual interest. We formerly established principles on how to deal with these issues.

[Correspondent] Can we know the major points of the expected discussions?

[Buwayz] Certainly. They will include regional political issues in addition to various bilateral affairs. We undoubtedly also will include on our agenda Iranian-Lebanese relations, their nature, totality, and the method in which the two countries deal with each other.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, would you comment on yesterday's bombardment of Baghdad? A short time ago we learned that south Iraq also is being bombarded.

[Buwayz] My only comment on this issue is that we would have liked all UN Security Council resolutions to be implemented. There is a growing feeling that certain Security Council resolutions are meant merely for appeasement, while others are implemented. There is a growing sentiment about the credibility of the UN Security Council and its resolutions.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, what is your assessment of the visit the Egyptian foreign minister made to Israel yesterday, during which he did not reach a solution to the deportees issue?

[Buwayz] This is what I have been saying. It is regrettable to see that the intensive efforts to implement certain

Security Council resolutions are not made to implement other international resolutions. [end recording]

Departs for Tehran

NC1901092993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left this morning for Tehran, via Damascus, on an official visit to Iran. He is scheduled to hold talks with senior Iranian officials on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Fadlallah Accuses U.S. of Partitioning Iraq

NC1601091093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that Iraq's problem is the Iraqi ruler's problem. He is a problem for his country and people as he was a problem to several areas in the region, he said. Saddam was given great power by the big powers, which were united against Iran to prevent it from raising God's word above.

Fadlallah added: We do not sympathize with Saddam and believe that the superpowers have exaggerated his standing to exaggerate their victory over him. He gave them the opportunity.

Fadlallah described the latest air strike on Iraq as a pure U.S. strike that they tried to claim was an allied strike. Fadlallah held the allied countries responsible for Saddam remaining in power and for thwarting the uprising against his rule. He noted that the allied countries' action was not meant to punish Saddam but the Iraqi nation's elderly people, women, and children through the international economic blockade.

He accused the United States of partitioning Iraq by creating safe havens in the nation's north and south against the Iraqi people's desire.

Turkish Prime Minister Arrives, Meets al-Asad

JN1901140993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and the delegation accompanying him at 1230 today. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; and 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rifai', Syrian ambassador to Turkey.

The Syrian and Turkish sides held an expanded meeting at 1345 today, attended by President Hafiz al-Asad; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Rashid Akhtarini and Dr. Salim Yasin, deputies to the prime minister; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Madani, minister of irrigation; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; As'ad Mustafa, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; and 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rifai', Syrian ambassador in Ankara. The meeting was attended for the Turkish side by the delegation accompanying Suleyman Demirel, led by Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin; Cavit Caglar, minister of state for economic affairs; Mehmet Batalli, minister of state; and Necmettin Cevheri, minister of agriculture, forestry, and village affairs.

Demirel arrived in Damascus at 1030 today on a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

In an arrival statement to SANA, Demirel said: My visit to Damascus is in reply to an invitation by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The visit is a good opportunity to exchange views and consult on issues of mutual interest to Turkey and Syria locally and internationally.

He added: This visit gives me an opportunity also to witness the great achievements made in Syria under the wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. I am honored to meet with his excellency.

Demirel went on to say: Turkey and Syria are two neighborly countries and share long borders. We in Turkey do not want these borders to separate the two countries but instead to be a bridge linking the two states. He noted that Syria and Turkey have positive elements and possess energies and capabilities that are sufficient to achieve and establish fruitful bilateral relations, assisted by geographical considerations and historical, cultural, and social ties that link them.

He concluded: We will discuss all ways to achieve these joint aspirations. [passage omitted]

Media Comment on Iraq, 'Double Standard'

TISHRIN Editorial

JN1601091493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0540 GMT 16 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN says: The Western strike on Iraq proves that the UN Security Council uses double standards with the parties that declare their disobedience to international law. This strike has also confirmed that the Arabs, in all their countries, are fully convinced that the UN Security Council uses double standards. Israel is safe from punishment, and not one of the influential big powers in the UN Security Council has threatened the Tel Aviv rulers to force them to submit to international will. This has urged President Hafiz al-Asad to say that international legitimacy is not morally upright, and that its resolutions must be applied everywhere, not selectively in one place.

TISHRIN reviews Israel's violations of the UN principles since it was accepted as a member state of the United Nations when it immediately refused to return the Palestinian refugees to their homeland.

The paper says: The most dangerous thing is that Israel's policy, which is opposed to peace and international law, has been receiving awards for the past 40 years in the form of continuous huge financial, economic, and military aid from those who are imposing their trusteeship on the world.

TISHRIN adds: The U.S. loan guarantees, the free weapons, and the German financial aid were the latest of these awards. No sooner had Israel received the financial and military aid it sought, than it turned its shoulder to the peace process, the Rabin government disavowed its commitments, and expelled hundreds of Palestinians.

TISHRIN also stresses that the treaty on banning chemical weapons is aimed against the Arabs. It seeks to deprive them of the means to defend themselves, while the Westerners themselves consider Israel the fifth nuclear state in the world.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Once again, we call on the UN Security Council to implement its resolutions and to obligate Israel to submit to right, justice, principles, and charters. We must also warn the custodians of the international community against using double standards in their relations with states and peoples.

Radio Commentary

JN1801180493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: An entire month has passed since Israel unjustly decided to deport hundreds of Palestinian citizens from their land, homes, and families. Yet, the issue is still without a solution, and the deportees, in their tents in Marj al-Zuhur, are still suffering in the absence of any ray of hope for being treated fairly by the world. All the world's institutions, bodies, and influential states are sitting back with folded arms, doing nothing to implement a Security Council resolution—a cry in the wilderness urging Israel to take the deportees

back and respect international laws that ban deportations, expulsions, and torturing citizens living under occupation.

Influential states on the UN Security Council and in the international community move quickly and use aircraft and missiles to shell Iraqi targets, even in Baghdad itself, because the Iraqi regime has not complied with the international body's resolutions. Is it fair, in the eyes of the United Nations, to implement all the resolutions issued against Arab states, while it disregards such resolutions when it come to Israel?

The United Nations ordered the use of force against Iraq to compel it to implement international resolutions. It also took resolutions imposing sanctions on Libya over doubts about the involvement of two of its citizens in bombing a U.S. passenger plane, at a time when the Security Council did not adopt any bounding resolutions to force Israel to bow to international will and implement Security Council resolutions against it.

Why do all the big powers take a tough, unanimous position toward this or that Arab country for mere suspicion while not doing anything when it comes to Israel, which commits many crimes daily that invite international punishment? A month has elapsed since the issuance of Resolution 799 calling for returning the deportees to their homeland and homes. The whole world is unanimous on the need to return them, but Israel maintains its position and has arrogantly and publicly refused to implement the resolution. Moreover, it sent the two UN envoys back empty-handed and asserted to the whole world that it was going ahead with its policy while letting the international community say whatever it pleases.

What else is the Security Council waiting for to play its role and until when will the United Nations continue to use a double standard and support influential forces in the world? The international organization was created to back justice and right in the world and to deter aggressors. However, the selectivity through which this organization is performing its missions raises doubts about its credibility. As the international community has failed to implement Resolution 799, which is a secondary resolution in a big, complicated problem, how can it implement other principal and important resolutions, on which Middle East peace is supposed to be based?

The big question, which still strongly imposes itself is: Will the United Nations continue its position, use a double standard, and back influential states in the world, or will it face up to its responsibility and apply its will on all fronts and to all states violating international and UN laws? It is time for the United Nations to play its role and use its effective means, foremost of which is Chapter 7 of its Charter to implement Resolution 799. Only then can it bolster its credibility as a supporter of justice in international relations.

Al-Shar' Returns From Italy Visit 19 Jan

JN1901104793 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus, 19 Jan (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus at dawn today from Rome ending a two-day official visit.

He met with the Italian president and had official talks with the Italian foreign minister.

Al-Shar' also had an audience with his holiness the pope, and held talks with the secretary of state and secretary of relations with states of the Vatican.

Afghanistan

Reportage on Missile Attacks on Kabul 15-18 Jan

UN Office, Presidential Palace Hit

LD1501175893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The central areas of the Afghan capital, Kabul, were again the target of 15 rocket attacks today. According to the received reports, the UN office and a school in the Vazir Akbar Khan region, were hit by the rockets. Also, three rockets hit the compounds of Afghanistan's presidential palace, inflicting some damage. A responsible official of the Afghan Defense Ministry said that the attacks had not left any casualties. The Afghan Defense Ministry has accused Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami of firing the rockets.

Last night, a number of rockets also were fired from Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami positions at an orphanage, west of Kabul. In return, the Hezb-e Wahdat forces fired at Sayyaf's positions.

Southeastern Kabul was the scene of clashes between Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and the government forces, this afternoon.

Several Killed 16 Jan

LD1601163093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] The Afghan capital, Kabul, was today once again the target of rocket attacks. According to a Central News Unit report, five rockets hit Kabul city center this morning, leaving a number of people killed and injured while damaging a number of residential buildings.

Also, according to reports from Afghanistan, during the past few days' clashes between the forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami in western Kabul, a military airport belonging to Ettehad-e Eslami was captured by Hekmatyar's forces. But the intensity of the clashes was reduced through the intervention of the Supervisory Council [Shura-e Nezar].

Kabul Again Under Attack 17 Jan

LD1701182293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Areas of the Afghan capital Kabul were once again the targets of rocket attacks today. According to our correspondent in Kabul, the vicinity of the Presidential Palace and the Defense Ministry was the main target of the attacks. The Afghan Government has blamed the attack on Hekmatyar's forces.

Clashes between the forces of the Supervisory Council and the National Guard under the command of General Asadollah, which began two days ago, were halted today

through the efforts of the Afghan peace delegation. Gen. Asadollah was formerly commissioned by Rabbani's government to command the Balahezar military garrison, but his relations with the Defense Ministry deteriorated recently, and the general has reportedly joined Rashid Dostam's forces.

According to our correspondent's report, two planes belonging to the Afghan airline, arriving from India and Pakistan, landed at Kabul airport today.

Kabul Attacked 18 Jan

LD1801170393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Last night and today Kabul citizens were again subjected to missile attacks by Golboddin's forces.

An authoritative security source told the military section of BAKHTAR that a total of 21 missiles were fired last night and today from the southeastern direction of Kabul city, hitting the 2d, 4th, and 10th wards of the city. Four Muslim citizens including a child and a woman were badly injured. They were transferred to hospital and detained for treatment and observation. A number of residential areas and state establishments were severely damaged.

In connection with the latest missile attacks on Kabul city, the source added that since the successful convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council and the decisions taken by the representatives of our Muslim and religious nation, Golboddin's forces have so far fired 210 missiles on Kabul city. The majority of the missiles fired have landed on residential areas and public establishments. As a result 30 of our Muslim compatriots have been martyred and scores of others have been injured.

The missiles fired by Golboddin's forces have occasionally landed on foreign offices and establishments in Kabul as well as on residential areas and state buildings. Three missiles have hit a UN office in Kabul.

Prisoner Release Announced; Talks Held in Pakistan

LD1601181593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpt] [Announcer] [passage omitted] Our colleague Gudarzi has sent us a report from Kabul about political developments in Afghanistan. Let me draw your attention to it:

[Gudarzi] The question of whether there is peace between the government and opposition groups and parties in Afghanistan is still shrouded in ambiguity. It was announced today that the Supervisory Council and Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami will release each other's prisoners in accordance with a list exchanged two days ago. Five parties and groups, the most important of

which are Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, and the National Islamic Movement of the North, led by Rashid Dostam, are not satisfied with the way in which Mr. Rabbani was selected as president.

Now the 37-member peace delegation, which is headed by Ayatollah Asef Mohseni, is in the process of holding talks in Peshawar in Pakistan with the leaders of the parties based in that town. The delegation is trying to invite them to Kabul in order to continue the peace talks.

The possibility of a widespread war in Kabul has receded, but the city is still coming under rocket fire, apparently from Hezb-e Eslami positions in western Kabul.

[Announcer] We have also had a report about the economic problems of the people of Afghanistan, especially in Kabul, suggesting that over 70 percent of the people of Kabul are suffering from the severe winter weather because of the fuel shortage. The cost of fuel has risen so much that poor and even middle-income families cannot obtain fuel. Power cuts in many areas of Kabul have also created many problems in everyday life. This is in circumstances in which charity organizations, international circles, and international aid agencies have so far been unable to establish ongoing relief operations.

Government Forces Attack Hekmatyar Positions

LD1901121493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Afghan Government forces have attacked positions of forces supporting Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of that country's opposition. Gudarzi, the dispatched correspondent of the Voice and Vision in Kabul, reports:

[Gudarzi] The Afghan Government forces have been launching a large-scale attack against the positions of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, in the southeastern corner of that country's capital, since this morning. The Defense Ministry forces had been deploying their heavy weaponry against these positions since midnight last night, and started the attack at 0600 hours [0130 GMT].

[Studio announcer] Our correspondent adds: the Afghan Defense Ministry forces that arrived in Kabul last night carrying heavy weaponry have been attacking the positions of their opponents since 0600 hours this morning. The Afghan Defense Ministry officials have announced that, in the exchange of fire, the line of which extends from Gomruk to Pol-e Charkhi, the government forces, using 20 rocket-launchers and 12 tanks, succeeded in killing and capturing several of Hekmatyar's forces.

At present there is no traffic in Kabul City, and the exchange of fire between the two sides is still in progress. From this morning until noon today, over 100 rockets were fired at various areas of Kabul, the areas in the vicinity of the presidential palace, the Defense Ministry,

and the National Security Organization. No casualty reports have as yet been received.

Hezb-e Eslami Says Government Attack Fails

LD1901122493 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 19 Jan 93

[“Statement of the High Command of the Armed Forces of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan”]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This morning forces of the coalition administration of Kabul mounted an attack on the positions of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan's mojahedin in the areas of Pol-e Charkhi and Bagrami. The attack, which is launched at the initiative and under the plan of the communist generals, faced the heroic resistance of Hezb's faithful mojahedin, and their plan was aborted. While we have full confidence in our brave units, we inform our [word indistinct] compatriots that the dirty coalition administration of Kabul has once again embarked on the dangerous sedition of starting the fighting. The responsibility of any dangerous consequence caused by this will rest with this defamed and filthy administration.

Hezb-e Eslami Demands Resignation of Government

LD1701141493 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Statement by Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan in connection with the belligerent act of the coalition administration of Kabul: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The coalition administration of Kabul has completed preparation for another battle with Hezb-e Wahdat. This battle may well begin in the course of this week. And this will be another bloody battle, which the forces of coalition administration of Kabul will impose on the oppressed people of Kabul. [passage indistinct]

It is these warmonger elements who mount rocket attacks on the residential areas of Kabul City on the advice of their Communist friends, and later attribute them to the mojahedin of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, whereas Hezb-e Eslami has always condemned the fighting that inflicts [words indistinct] on our people. [words indistinct] we loath infighting and advise the other side to seriously refrain from such foul and illegitimate acts, which will lead to dangerous consequences. We want the coalition administration of Kabul to surrender power to an interim government that is acceptable to all, and then elections can be held in six months and authority can be delegated to an elected and stable government. If this demand of ours is met, we have no other demands.

Spokesman on Efforts To Form New Government

LD1801171493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Esteemed Abdol Aziz Morad, head of the press office of the president of the Islamic state of Afghanistan, has reviewed the current situation in the country at a press conference attended by domestic and foreign journalists.

According to a BAKHTAR correspondent, during the press conference Abdol Aziz Morad said that the important and weighty issue facing the leadership of the country is the appointment of a prime minister and the formation and structure of the new government—a government that is able to give a positive response to the problems of the people and the country in the present complicated conditions, to ensure peace and stability in the country, to put an end to hostility and misunderstanding, to consolidate national unity, and to victoriously continue the revival and reconstruction process of Afghanistan.

He added: Contacts and negotiations are vigorously continuing to obtain agreement and understanding among the majority of the political forces and personalities. We hope a new government will be introduced to the people before long. Now that our Muslim nation has expressed its determination and decision through the convening of the Resolution and Settlement Council, all forces and individuals, respecting the determination and decision of the nation, should actively strive to implement the aims of the Islamic state of Afghanistan so as to serve the people and the country.

According to him, so far no specific person has been appointed as the next prime minister. The state has called on a number of credible social personalities, scholars, and political and jihadi forces to work for the formation of the new government. The series of consultations and negotiations continues [words indistinct].

Bangladesh

Country Expresses 'Deep Concern' at Gulf Situation

BK1801131293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Bangladesh has expressed deep concern over the worsening Gulf situation in the wake of recent developments in Iraq. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today that Bangladesh hopes all concerned will abide by the principles of the UN Charter and the relevant UN resolution to maintain peace in that part of the world.

India

Council of Ministers Resigns for Cabinet Reshuffle

BK1701002693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1750 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] NEW DELHI, Jan 16 (AFP)—The entire council of ministers of India handed in their resignations Saturday to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to pave the way for a cabinet reshuffle, official sources said. The resignations were handed over at a dinner hosted by Rao at his residence, the sources said.

"This will pave the way for a reshuffle of the cabinet," they said, adding that the long-awaited changes to the 19-month-old cabinet were likely to take place Sunday [17 January] evening. A few key portfolios have been vacant for the past year, including those of external affairs, commerce, labour, and law.

Former minister for external affairs Madhavsinh Solanki quit in March in connection with the Bofors arms deal pay off scandal, while commerce minister Palaniappan Chidambaram resigned following reports that he had investments in a company linked to a multi-million-dollar securities scam. Stock market brokers were alleged to have syphoned off huge amounts of money for profitable operations in collusion with officials from a number of banks, including foreign banks.

Rao, who is also president of the ruling Congress (I) party, shifted then labour minister Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy to take over as chief minister of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

The latest vacancy was created when civil aviation minister Madhav Rao Scindia resigned earlier this month, to take moral responsibility for the crashlanding of an aircraft leased from Uzbek Airways. All the passengers and crew miraculously escaped although the aircraft was destroyed.

Earlier Saturday, Rao had a meeting with President Shankar Dayal Sharma, discussing among other things the planned reshuffle, the sources said. He also met former premier Rajiv Gandhi's Italian-born widow, Sonia Gandhi, at her house in Delhi.

Party Leaders React to Resignations

BK1701034893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Leaders of several political parties have reacted to the resignations by members of the Union Council of Ministers. A former Congress-I general secretary, Mr. K.N. Singh, said it is a good move to recast the cabinet to effectively face the challenge of communalism. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. S. Jaipal Reddy, said Mr. Narasimha Rao should have drastically revised his current policy instead of refashioning his cabinet. The

CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] general secretary, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, said it will have no impact except enabling the prime minister to reconstitute his ministry. The CPI [Communist Party of India] national council secretary, Mr. M. Farooqi, said that the prime minister himself should have resigned owning moral responsibility for the Ayodhya developments. The Congress-S leader, Mr. K.P. Umikrishnan, said Mr. Narasimha Rao should have brought about changes in government policies. The SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] leader, Yashwant Sinha, said taking recourse to securing the ministers resignation to reshuffle the ministry shows Mr. Narasimha Rao's weakness rather than his strength.

New Members Announced; Parties React

BK1801015493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister has reconstituted the Union Council of Ministers, dropping 14 ministers, inducting an equal number of new ministers, and promoting two deputy ministers. The health minister, Mr. M.L. Fotedar, and 13 others have been dropped. They are Mr. Ashok Gehlot, Mr. M.M. Jacob, Professor P.J. Kurien, Dr. Chinta Mohan, Mr. Shantaram Porthuke, Mr. M. Ramachandaran, Mr. Dalbir Singh, Mr. M.O.H. Farooq, Mrs. D.K. Tara Devi, and Miss Mamata Banerji—all ministers of state; and Mr. S.D. Nanagowda, Mrs. K. Kamalakumari, and Dr. Girija Vyas—all deputy ministers.

The announcement about the dropped ministers came after midnight, nearly five hours after the new ministers were sworn in at a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. A Rashtriya Bhavan communique said that these ministers shall cease to hold office with immediate effect. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers at Rashtrapati Bhavan yesterday evening. The new cabinet ministers are Mr. Dinesh Singh, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Mr. A.K. Anthony, and Mr. N.K.P. Salve. The new ministers of state are Captain Satish Sharma, who will hold independent charge; Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, Mr. Arvind Netam, Mr. Chandrasekhara Murthy, Dr. Abrar Ahmed, and Mr. Mukul Vasnik. The two deputy ministers who have been elevated as ministers of state are Mr. Salman Khurshid, and Mr. Rangaiyya Naidu. Four more ministers of state who could not come yesterday are expected to take the oath later. They are Mr. K.P. Singh Deo, Mr. P.M. Sayeed, Mr. K. Thangabalu, Mrs. Vasava Rajeshwari.

Major political parties have reacted to the cabinet reshuffle. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] general secretary, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, says the exercise is not going to help in improving the law and order situation unless a policy declaration is made to meet the challenge posed by forces of communalism. The CPI [Communist Party of India] National Council secretary, Mr. M. Farooqi, said the reconstitution of the cabinet means nothing unless the government gives a new direction to its policies. The Congress- I leader,

Prof. K.K. Tewari, has described the recast of the union cabinet as good and expressed the hope that the new faces inducted would effectively counter the onslaught of the fascist forces in the country.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr. Govind Acharya, has described it as nothing more than an old wine in a new bottle. The former prime minister and the SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, said even at this stage it is not too late to show some sign of effectiveness in combating the forces of destabilization.

Additional Portfolios Announced

BK1801150093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The portfolios of the union ministers have been announced. According to a communique issued from Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House], Mr. Dinesh Singh will be the minister for external affairs and Mr. Pranab Mukherji has been given the Commerce Ministry.

Another cabinet minister, who was sworn in yesterday, Mr. A.K. Anthony, is given civil supplies.

Mr. Rajesh Pilot holding independent charge of the Communications Ministry has been moved to the Home Ministry and given charge of internal security.

Mr. S.B. Chavan continues to be the home minister.

Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad has been moved from parliamentary affairs to tourism and civil aviation.

The petroleum minister, Mr. B. Shankaranand, has been shifted to health and family welfare.

Captain Sharma has been allocated independent charge of petroleum.

Mr. Vidhya Charan Shukla, will look after the parliamentary affairs, in addition to the Water Resources Ministry.

Mr. N.K.P. Salve will look after the Power Ministry.

Mr. Arjun Singh and Mr. Sharad Pawar retain their portfolios of human resource development and defense.

Mr. Eduardo Faleiro has been shifted from the external affairs to fertilizer and chemicals.

Mr. Ajit Panja has been moved to coal, and Mr. Kalpanath Rai to food.

Mr. Giridhar Gomengo has been given planning and program implementation; Mr. Sukh Ram, communications; Mr. G. Venkataswamy, textiles; and Mr. Tarun Gagoi, food processing.

Mr. P.A. Sangma retains labor which he was holding as an additional charge.

Dr. Abrar Ahmed will be the minister of state for finance and also parliamentary affairs; Mr. Arvind Netam, Agriculture; and Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi will be the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office.

Mr. K.C. Lenka has been moved to railways.

Mr. M. Arunachalam gets industry; Mr. Mallikarjun goes to defense; and Mr. M.V. Chandrasekhara Murthy, who was sworn in yesterday, has been given finance.

Another new minister, Mr. Mukul Vasnik, has been allocated human resource development in charge of youth and sports.

Some other changes include Mr. Rameshwar Thakur to rural development; Mr. P. K. Thungan to urban development; Mr. S. Krishnakumar to nonconventional energy; and Mr. Salman Khurshid to external affairs.

Among the deputy ministers, Mr. Pawan Singh Ghatewal has been moved from labor to health. There will be no change in the portfolios of the other two deputy ministers, Mr. Ramlal Rahi who continues to be in home and Miss Saleja in human resource development.

The prime minister will continue to hold rural development, nonconventional energy sources, fertilizers and chemicals, and law, besides Departments of Personnel, Science and Technology, Electronics, and Space. He will also look after the industry and other portfolios, including information and broadcasting.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan communique adds that there will be no change in the portfolios of other ministers.

Commentary Views Cabinet Reshuffle

BK1901105293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Commentary by Bhashkar Roy of INDIAN EXPRESS]

[Text] By overhauling his Council of Ministers, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has clearly demonstrated his complete control over both the government and the Congress-I party. A close look at the distribution of portfolios points to the long-term perspective he has taken of the challenge facing his government. Despite the turmoil and widespread violence in the wake of the Ayodhya incident, the real threat is still emanating from the economic front.

The prime minister is clear in his mind that unless the economy moves up, India as a nation will become vulnerable. He is, therefore, keen to take the economic reforms to their logical conclusion. A former finance minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, known for his administrative abilities, has therefore been inducted as the commerce minister. In the new environment, the roles of the finance and commerce ministries are expected to be complementary to each other. A strong backing from the Commerce Ministry will help the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, to move ahead with liberalization.

Mr. Narasimha Rao has brought in several seasoned administrators who would be able to run the key portfolios independently, allowing him time to brace up for the political battle. The youthful and energetic Mr. Rajesh Pilot has moved into the Home Ministry as minister of state. The veteran, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has got the external affairs portfolio. At a time when Pakistan is hell-bent on misusing every available international forum to launch its disinformation campaign against India, his vast experience in foreign affairs will help formulate the Indian response to the hostile propaganda.

In view of the crucial role of the power sector in a liberalized industrial scenario, another ace administrator, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, has been allocated the energy portfolio. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, who on several occasions has played the role of a crisis manager in the Congress-I organization, has now got the daunting task on enhancing the image of the Indian Airlines and bringing the foreign tourists as the minister of civil aviation and tourism.

While inducting the veterans, the prime minister has promoted some junior ministers in recognition of their good work and decided not to disturb the ministers in charge of key portfolios. He elevated the articulate deputy commerce minister, Mr. Salman Khurshid, as the minister of state for external affairs. Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, a senior MP from Rajasthan, will be assisting Mr. Narasimha Rao as minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office. The former Kerala chief minister, Mr. A.K. Anthony, has taken over as the minister for civil supplies and public distribution. Mr. Narasimha Rao apparently believes that a nation set for economic growth will never allow the revivalist forces to set the clock back. But if the economy cannot be turned around and the growth rate remains sluggish the authorities can counter the disruptive forces only from a position of weakness.

Rao Announces Economic Assistance Package for Bombay

BK1501162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister has asked the Maharashtra government to institute a judicial inquiry into the Bombay violence. Addressing a press conference at the Raj Bhavan [governor's house] in Bombay this evening, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] could assist the commission of inquiry. The prime minister announced a package of assistance for restoration of the economic activity of the city and a grant of 1 crore rupees from the prime minister's relief fund for rehabilitation of the affected people. He said the central government will expedite implementation of the package in coordination with the state government on top priority. As per the package, 2 lakh rupees will be given to the next of kin of those killed and an ex-gratia of 50,000 rupees to those permanently incapacitated. He also announced employment for the widows of those

killed or permanently incapacitated. Allotment of tenements to homeless families and working capital for businessmen to restart their work.

The prime minister assured the people of Bombay that the Army would stay in the city as long as required. Mr. Rao asked the state government to stop the exodus of the people from the city. Earlier, 15 delegations met the prime minister and gave their assessment of the situation. The Citizens Group comprising Mr. J.R.D. Tata, Mr. Ram Krishna Bajaj, and Mr. N.E. Palkhiwala had a meeting with the prime minister for about 40 minutes. The Maharashtra pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr. Shivaji Rao Deshmukh, led a Congress-I team. The others who met the prime minister included leaders of the Republican Party, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Shiv Sena, and the Muslim League. Editors of city newspapers and an Iranian delegation also met the prime minister.

Soon after his arrival this morning, Mr. Narasimha Rao drove straight to Wakola, Kherbari, Nirmal Nagar, Mahim, Parel, and railroad areas to take stock of the situation. Mr. Rao also went to the Nair Hospital in central Bombay and spoke to the victims undergoing treatment there. The Maharashtra governor, Dr. P.C. Alexander, and the chief minister, Mr. Sudhakar Rao Naik, accompanied the prime minister.

Meanwhile, the situation in the affected areas of the city is improving. Police recovered a huge quantity of lethal weapons and arrested 15 persons. According to an agency report, police opened fire in Nirmal Nagar in northwest Bombay this afternoon to disperse a violent mob. Tension also prevails in Bikrauli and Antop Hill. Curfew was relaxed for varying periods in different localities today. The prime minister has since left Bombay for New Delhi after a day's visit to the city.

Riots in Gujarat, Bombay Claim 15 Lives

BK1601040093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] In Gujarat, the city of Ahmedabad remained peaceful. Quoting official sources, our Ahmedabad correspondent reports that the curfew will be relaxed today in all curfew-bound areas of the city in phases following improvement in the situation. The relaxation in Shahpur police station areas for three hours from 1300 hours will be only for women and children while in other parts it will be for three to 11 hours. Meanwhile, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in the town of Bharoch from last evening following renewed violence. Three persons were killed and three injured in stabbing and police firing. Police had to fire several rounds and burst tear gas shells to disperse violent mobs.

In Bombay, 12 persons died due to stabbing and police firing in some sensitive localities yesterday. The overall situation according to the police is under control. Curfew has been relaxed from 0600 hours to 1500 hours in eight

police circles in Dongri, Paidhoni, B.B. Road, Nagpara, Yogeshwari, Ghatkopar, Deonar, and Dharvi.

'Marked Improvement' in Bombay Shown 16 Jan

BK1601082893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] The situation in Bombay city has shown marked improvement today after nine days of turmoil. Barring minor incidents of stabbing, arson, and firing, no untoward incident has been reported from the suburbs. Suburban trains and buses are plying as normal, and banks and offices have resumed regular function. The army and police, however, continued their searches in sensitive localities and seized huge quantity of lethal weapons from some areas. More than 3,500 arrests have been made on specific offences from the city and suburbs. Three thousand three hundred and twenty eight persons have also been taken into preventive custody. The curfew has been relaxed for nine hours from 0600 hours to 1500 hours in seven police station areas of Paidhoni, Dongri, Nagpara, B.B. Road, Deonar, Yogeshwari, and Ghatkopar and 0800 hours to 1400 hours in Dharvi. Indefinite curfew will continue in these areas after the relaxation period. Night curfew is also to continue in Nirwannagar and Kherwari areas which witnessed trouble yesterday.

In Gujarat, the situation in Ahmedabad and Bharoch town is reported to be peaceful. No untoward incident has been reported from these cities so far. Life in Ahmedabad is normal during the curfew relaxation period.

Inquiry Into Riot Ordered

BK1601160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sudhakar Rao Naik, today announced a judicial inquiry into the various aspects of the riots which hit Bombay. Addressing a news conference in Bombay today, Mr. Naik said the inquiry will be conducted by a sitting judge of the high court. The state government is writing to the chief justice of the Bombay High Court in this regard. The chief minister said 200,000 rupees will be given to the next of kin of those killed. He said a five-member relief committee is being constituted to look after the distribution of essential commodities. Mr. Naik said the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has assured the state government of more financial assistance from the prime minister's relief fund in addition to the one crore rupees given yesterday.

Commercial activities have been resumed in Bombay. No major incident was reported during the nine-hour curfew relaxation period today. The Army and police continue their searches in sensitive localities and seize huge quantity of lethal weapons from some areas. More than 3,500 arrests have been made in specific offences

from the city and the suburbs. Three thousand three hundred persons have also been taken into preventive custody.

Janata Dal Leader Singh Begins Fast 15 Jan

BK1501130093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Janata Dal leader Mr. V.P. Singh has gone on an indefinite fast since 1000 this morning in Bombay, calling for immediate restoration of peace in the city. He was joined, among others, by the party leaders—Mrs. Mrinal Gore and Mrs. Pramila Dandavate. This was disclosed by the party general secretary, Mr. Sharad Yadav, in New Delhi this evening. He said violence in Bombay is not only communal in nature, but the mafia of the city is trying to evict people to grab their lands. Mr. Yadav said a National Front-left front delegation comprising Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, Mr. Saifuddin Chaudhary, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, and himself are visiting Bombay tomorrow.

Health Deteriorates

BK1701125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] The Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, who is on an indefinite fast at the Martyrs Memorial in South Bombay since Friday [15 January] was removed to the hospital this afternoon following deterioration of his health. He has undertaken the fast for the revival of communal harmony and peace in the violence-hit city of Bombay. The Maharashtra minister for cooperation and cultural affairs, Mr. Vijaysingh Mohit Patil, and the minister of state for information and public relations, Mr. Arun Gujarati, called on him at the Bombay hospital on behalf of the chief minister. Last night, [Maharashtra Chief Minister] Mr. Udhakar Rao Naik called on Mr. V.P. Singh and urged him to break his fast.

Sri Lankan Tamil Guerrilla Captured in Madras

BK1601104193 Hong Kong AFP in English 0913 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Madras, India, Jan 16 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil militant leader was brought ashore here, ending a tense standoff on the high seas during which he had threatened to blow himself up if taken prisoner, senior police sources said.

Sathasivam Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, was brought to Madras by the Indian Navy late Friday night and handed over to the intelligence branch of Tamil Nadu state police, the sources said.

The sources said Kittu had launched an indefinite hunger strike in detention.

The circumstances in which the standoff had ended and Kittu was brought ashore for questioning were unclear.

The vessel in which Kittu, a top leader of Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was travelling to Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula was surrounded by Indian gunships on the high seas Wednesday night.

Sources in this southern Indian city had said Friday that Kittu had threatened to blow up the boat if Indian marines attempted to board it.

Kittu was deputy leader of the LTTE before he lost a leg in March 1987 and was forced to take a back seat in the guerrilla organisation battling for an independent Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka's north and east.

During Colombo's failed peace talks with the LTTE between 1989 and 1990, Kittu was sent by the Sri Lankan Government to London to get an artificial leg, and an application for asylum was rejected by Britain.

He was later reported to have travelled to Geneva.

An LTTE spokesman said Kittu was carrying a foreign-backed peace plan aimed at ending Sri Lanka's ethnic strife when his vessel was surrounded by the Indian gunships.

The LTTE's Paris-based spokesman Lawrance Tilakar said they were planning legal action through an Indian court to secure the release of Kittu.

"We will file a habeas corpus application in an Indian court," Tilakar said in a telephone interview.

Tilakar said an unspecified number of crew had been taken prisoner by two Indian naval frigates that intercepted the M. V. Ahad. Tilakar denied that the ship was carrying military hardware for LTTE guerrillas in Sri Lanka.

"The only cargo was Kittu and nothing else," he said dismissing claims by Sri Lankan military officials that the ship was "most probably" carrying anti-aircraft guns and communication equipment.

Defense Ministry on Incident

BK1701130493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] clandestine radio in Sri Lanka says that Sathasivam Krishnakumar known as Kittu died when the ship, M.V. Ahad, carrying him sank after it caught fire yesterday.

The Defense Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the vessel was set on fire by the LTTE cadres on board the ship off the Madras coast when it was intercepted by the Indian authorities. Naval commanders boarded the vessel despite the danger of explosion and removed four bodies charred beyond recognition. The vessel capsized around midnight last night. Jaichandran, master of the vessel, who was rescued yesterday, has stated that the vessel was carrying several tons of arms and ammunition, grenades and a large quantity of gasoline.

Iran

Officials, Media Comment on Iraqi Raids

Musavi-Ardabili Sermon

LD1501172093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili in Tehran on 15 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] God's creatures, you must be pious and virtuous. You must observe piety—materially, mentally, and practically. That is your best treasure here and hereafter.

The most important issue, which at this juncture in history must receive attention, is the plight of Muslims and the meek in the world. It is not possible for a person to be a Muslim, to see what goes on in the world, and not to feel sad and not to seek solutions to such a sorry state of affairs.

What has befallen Muslims today—these crimes and these horrible events—stems from negligence, mistakes, and the treason of yesteryear. The Muslims lived in negligence, while the enemies were awake, active, and dynamic. They worked hard and achieved progress and advancement—in material sciences and issues related to life such as industry and technology. The enemies built up an outwardly agreeable lifestyle.

When the Muslims woke up from their negligence, they were badly overawed by the sight of the dazzling lifestyle of the enemies. So they believed in the rightness and correctness of the acts, ways, and values of the enemies. Then the Muslims began to dislike their own ways—even their beliefs, their spirituality, and their morals. The Muslims looked up to their enemies as their models, as something to emulate. In fact, the Muslims slipped toward the enemies and even prided themselves on being their servants. [passage omitted]

Thus, the elite of the Muslims invited the people to turn to the West, because they believed everything worthwhile was among Westerners. Our own educated classes sometimes used to say that if an Iranian wanted to be worth anything he must become Westernized from head to toe. [passage omitted]

The West took advantage of such subservience; the Westerners began to plunder us which is still going on—it has not stopped. They went on to commit injustice and enslave the Muslim nations so much that finally the Muslims woke up from their negligent hibernation. Alas, it was too late; they had lost everything. Then here and there, moves began to surface against such a state of affairs. [passage omitted]

These movements harassed global arrogance; they inflicted some harm. However, the coup de grace was delivered to the defunct body of colonialism by the glorious Islamic revolution of Iran. [passage omitted]

When we see our revolution's achievements, we proudly say: Currently on this earth, in the Muslim-inhabited regions, in advanced areas, in backward regions, in cultured and uncultured areas, in all of them—as a result of this revolution and God's blessing—we do not know of a region in which the Westerners see the enemies in the guise of friends and consider them angels on earth [sentence as heard]. The enemy has been recognized, the veil has been lifted, the secrets are out. Today, the Muslims no longer see the enemy as an angel; in fact they see him as an ugly, bloodsucking monster and they are thirsty for his blood. This is the state of the Muslims today. When they see this renewed phenomenon, the wily West—America, Britain, and their followers—in Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia and in the majority of Muslim-inhabited regions, those oppressed, tyrannized, suffering, captive, and belittled people want to rise up.

On the other hand, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the liberation of a number of Muslim-inhabited nations, with the same Islamic leanings ... [pauses] If you travel to Azerbaijan today, if you go to Baku ... [pauses] What is happening to the Muslims in Tajikistan today? They are being killed, they are being sacrificed. This is not the first time that this blood-sucking enemy has seen itself horrified in the face of faithful and steadfast people, in the face of awake Muslims and alert oppressed who are after their rights; and it commits any crime. There is not a crime left. [passage omitted]

That gentleman in America says: Saddam must know that we cannot tolerate anyone who opposes us. When we tell you to withdraw your missiles, you withdraw them or else, hundreds of planes will drop one-tonne bombs on your head. Did the Serbs listen to them? You said: O Serbs, this is a no-fly zone. And around 300 times the Serbs told you: To hell with you! We will go there. How could you tolerate that? You said you could not tolerate. Why do you tolerate it there?

Now, all of this is clear. Now they know that this cry of human rights has dried up in their throats. Of course, they still say: Iran is on the blacklist, it violates human rights. What gall! But even they know they are joking. [passage omitted]

Now they might wipe away a few million people, they might commit genocide against a nation, but do you think you can silence people with weapons? World experience has taught us that this increases enmity. Those who have lost face will lose even more face and they are digging their own grave. [Crowd chants support: Islam is victorious! America will be destroyed!] [passage omitted]

Those that attacked and bombed Iraq ... [pauses] We heard a few political interpretations. Saddam wanted to

test Bush, who is now going. He wanted to see if he would bomb as he was leaving. He wanted to test the new President, to see if he would follow the same path. Well, I am amazed by all this. This is what I think, you may disagree: This is an American plot. America can get rid of Saddam as easily as swatting a fly. Why don't they kill him? America needs Saddam. Saddam must remain. America needs an excuse to come and remain in the region. As it was seen, Saddam's invasion of Kuwait was nudged by America, some people were doubting this. Saddam himself admitted to this. Saddam is a criminal, without a doubt, he is everything, but he is not a complete maniac under chains. To attack Kuwait now and to take away Silkworm missiles—or to put a few missiles on launchers ... [pauses] He understands that if they cannot tolerate it he would not have stood up to even one of them. They are standing there, worse than killer whales saying: Don't! They tell him: Do! Who benefitted from all this? One hundred planes went and bombed Iraq. They got money from Kuwait straight away; then troops came to Kuwait from America. On the other hand, America's Navy came to the Persian Gulf and its position was strengthened. It increased its military hardware, it got money out of the sheikhdoms. America is saying: Look, Saddam is here! If you don't listen to me, he will beat the hell out of you. He is mad! And Saddam sees that if he does not listen to America, one bullet is all it takes, it is easy. It is all a game, it is a plot so that America dominates the Persian Gulf and gets money out of these shaykhs.

On that day they said in London, amid celebration and foot-stomping, that a third of the Saudi budget has been allocated to buying arms, that Britain's economic problems are solved. That is the situation of the Muslims in the world.

As to our domestic situation, it is not very good. The governments are fighting each other. The Saudis rescue Britain's bankrupt economy, but attack Qatar because of two inches of land. To what sort of logic does that conform? Egypt accepts the servitude of Israel, but attacks Sudan, saying: You train Islamists there and send them to Egypt. That is our domestic situation. Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt consult each other on how to destroy Islamist Muslims in a concerted manner. Of course, they are doing so individually, but they want it to be coordinated. That is our domestic situation.

Islam is caught between these two plagues. And the Muslims have only one course of action, and that is to return to Islam. [passage omitted]

O Muslims, do not stray toward the infidels; do not be deceived by them again. Our youths, our senior citizens, our writers, they should not say: For how long are we going to say death to America, and for how long are we going to fight America? We are not fighting America. For how long are we to be enemies? Let us have cultural ties. Would that be so bad? Would economic ties be bad? All right, even if we could not have cultural and economic ties—and we cannot have diplomatic ties either—what

about sports? We could send some people there and, say, play ball. Where in the Koran does it say that your children must not play ball in America? Never. Such thoughts are worse than deadly poison. Did you see how America tried to fool China? It started with table tennis. They did not immediately attempt to sign a treaty. They exchanged table tennis teams and gradually things reached their present state. [passage omitted]

Under the leadership of his eminence the imam and with Muslims' power of faith and sacrificing the immaculate blood of our martyrs, we just managed to break the chains of captivity from our hands and feet. [Crowd chants: God is the Greatest, Khamene'i is the leader, death to those who oppose the rule of the Supreme Jurisconsult, death to America, death to Britain, death to the Hypocrites (Mojahedin e-Khalq) and Saddam, death to Israel." Musavi-Ardebili says: "Brothers." The crowd continue to chant. He then invites crowd to listen]

Please listen, please pay attention. Brothers, sisters, dear ones, my lords, if we have shortcomings, if there are problems in our work, if there are failures, we should use our God-given muscles, our God-given thinking power, and trust ourselves and our youth and have self-confidence. If we need help, we should ask God to help us. Who helped our revolution achieve victory? Was it America or England? Who helped us free ourselves from captivity? Who helped us get our revolution to flourish? Who helped us climb to such a high glorious status at a time when we were termed as half-savage in the world? It was God's assistance and our own endeavor and the blood of our youth and the self-sacrifice of the families of our martyrs that helped.

If we want ...[pauses] I accept that we have problems, we have shortages, our Education Ministry has not yet managed to provide schoolchildren with classrooms, teachers, and books. We still have schools in our country that have to manage with two or three shifts. We still have children who have not yet touched a book. But it is up to us to make efforts. This country was surrendered to them. They dominated this country to such an extent, and what service did they render apart from plundering it? That is, are we going to be better for them than the Taghut [idols; referring to the shah's regime]? That is not possible. That is not correct. Come and let us make effort and feel responsible. [passage omitted] Let us return to Islam and sincerely and selflessly cooperate to get rid of our problems. God be praised, there are plenty of those in Iran who who feel responsible and work and make effort. But that is not enough. All have to help. All have to be coordinated. If administrative corruption has not ended in our country, if our offices still continue to make people disgruntled and create obstacles, if instead of shifting problems, those who hold posts create more problems for people—and as I have already mentioned, we also have a lot of people who selflessly do their best and endeavor to render a sincere service for the sake of God and people and for Islam—and if there are also a group of people who, as soon as they are appointed to a

post, begin to create problems and make people disgruntled and add to the existing problems, very well, these are all our own problems. It is up to us to do our own work. We are a great nation. Our nation passed its test successfully during the revolution. Probably no nation in the world has come out of the scenes of a revolution so successfully.

It sacrificed its youths, its life; it served. It is the same people. God willing, you will come to your senses, help the officials, help government departments. If there are any unsuitable people, they should be set aside. The authorities should not let unsuitable people make the people disgruntled. Honest people should be put into office. If there are more honest people, they should also be included. We have a long way to go before we could say that we could do that have ties with a country that has done nothing but suck our blood in the past. We should not even speak of it; we should not let anyone speak of it. Saying such things might, God forbid, gradually lead to you know what. [passage omitted]

Velayati Remarks

LD1501224393 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1415 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister, Mr. Velayati returned to Tehran yesterday from a tour to four European countries which took him to Poland, Austria, Albania, and France. Upon his arrival at Mehrabad airport, Mr. Velayati had an interview with our correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, would you please explain the outcomes of your recent trip to the four European countries and do you think is there any hope toward ending the ethnic war in Bosnia and Hercegovina?

[Velayati] I have paid an official visit to three countries, Poland, Austria, and Albania. The main purpose of these trips was strengthening of bilateral relations between Iran and all these three countries.

Apart from the bilateral relation, we have talked about the question of Bosnia and Hercegovina. The position of Iran and all these countries more or less are very close. Specifically Austria and Albania have the same position as we do. We are against the atrocity which has committed by Serbs against the Muslim and Croats in Bosnia and Hercegovina. We have decided to continue our consultation and also all cooperation in the international arena and also sending relief and aids for people of Bosnia and Hercegovina, humanitarian aid for these people who have been suffering a lot during that few months because of this aggression of Serbs.

[Correspondent] Would you state that how the banning of such chemical weapons treaty might impress the world's peace?

[Velayati] You know this is the second treaty which has been signed by the majority of countries which are members of the United Nations in this century. The first

one was signed in 1925 but on the base of the experiences that we have had during the Second World War and also the imposed war, I mean the war which has been imposed on us by Iraq, we have witnessed the use of chemical weapons in these wars specifically against Iran. Iran is the first and important victim of the use of chemical weapon after the Second World War and still thousands of our people are suffering from the effect of the use of chemical weapons. And we have been very active in the commission of disarmament in Geneva during last about 10 years and let us say the Islamic Republic of Iran has been one of the founders of the draft of the treaty and that is quite natural if we sign it. And this is a hope that under the supervision of the international community and organization, this treaty which is more comprehensive than the 1925 treaty will be fulfilled by all countries which have either signed it or in the future are going to join others and sign this treaty. [end recording]

Mr. Velayati also expressed concern over recent air raids on Iraq by the American-led Western allied forces saying this move shows the selective approach of influential powers at the United Nations to the approval of the Security Council.

Mr. Velayati added: Iran has supported the Security Council resolutions against the Iraqi regime's aggression of its own people and the aggression against Kuwait and has expressed opposition to Baghdad's military actions in northern and southern Iraq. But this does not mean that Iran supports the attacks and selective military measures of big powers in Iraq.

Larijani Comments

LD1901145093 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—The recent air and missile attacks of the U.S.-led allied forces against Iraq are aimed at partitioning the country into three parts, Majles (parliament) deputy Mohammad Javad Larijani said here Tuesday.

He told the visiting advisor to the Indian foreign minister, Raskontra, in a meeting that Iraq's disintegration is neither in the interest of the Iraqi nation nor regional countries.

"The U.S. and the West are now contemplating disintegrating Iraq, however, the consequence of this move will spread to the whole region," Larijani who is also a member of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said.

Larijani regretted that Saddam is after an opportunity to establish links with the Clinton administration, however he has made wrong calculations.

"Saddam has come to the conclusion that he might be able to delay Iraq's partitioning through communication with Clinton administration or eventually obviate the plan, but this is merely a dream," Larijani said.

He stressed that Americans should realize that they cannot overthrow Saddam by military forces and mobilization of the Western governments, because he said, Saddam is ruling over a nation with Islamic ideology, and only the uprising of the Iraqi nation can finish Saddam and not military attacks of the Western countries.

"Iraq's disintegration will be very unfortunate for us, and other countries including Turkey would also suffer losses in this regard," Larijani said.

The latest developments concerning the Babri Mosque as well as Iran-India relations were also discussed in the meeting.

Commentary on U.S. Message

NC1601083093 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 16 Jan 93*

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God.

Three days have passed since the attacks by U.S., British, and French warplanes on military centers in northern and southern Iraq, marking the commencement of a new period of political and military developments in the region.

Threats by the U.S. secretary of defense on the possibility of further U.S. and Western attacks on Iraq, the deployment of at least 300 U.S. ground troops in Kuwait, and the tussle over the issue of UN planes entering Baghdad are all indications of a continuation of a new series of political and military developments.

Iraq has accepted the entry of UN forces and airplanes into Baghdad but has refused to accept responsibility for their safety. On the basis of UN Resolutions 687, 707, and 715, Iraq is bound to ensure the safety of UN aircraft and forces. On the other hand, most political experts believe that the objective behind the Western forces' recent operations against Iraqi military installations is not solely to end Iraq's limited crisis-generating political and military measures. Instead, they are aimed at creating appropriate conditions for the implementation of Western policies in the Persian Gulf and Middle East regions.

These experts believe that the number of military operations against Iraq—despite the fact that they are being described as limited—are proportionally far more extensive than Iraq's violations of UN resolutions. In other words, the extent of the operations against Iraqi military installations had been formulated on the basis of future U.S. programs and policies in the region. Without a doubt, the Iraqi regime—with its limited political and military actions and its penchant for creating crises—is trying to extricate itself from its internal and external crises. This situation is not unfamiliar to the current U.S. echelons, who base their policies on maintaining the current crisis-ridden and fluid situation in Iraq.

The U.S. response to Iraqi actions indicates that it is pursuing other objectives in the region. The Iraqi regime's objective in all this crisis-creating political and military measures has been explained by its UN representative. He has also expressed the hope that a new chapter in Baghdad-Washington ties will begin.

It appears that Saddam and the Iraqi people wish to extricate themselves from the current state of political limbo in Iraq. However, U.S. threats regarding a spate of new attacks on Iraq and consecutive ultimatums, with questionable UN endorsement, to the Baghdad rulers indicate that the United States, or at least Bush, considers the language of anger and violence appropriate for tackling the region's political problems.

One must not forget that the Saddam regime is not the region's only regime embroiled in internal and external problems. The Zionist region is also in the throes of an intense domestic and foreign political crisis. Some experts believe that U.S. policy in the region is based on the Zionist regime's political crises. This new era of political and military developments and the fact that the United States is accentuating the use of anger and military force demonstrates the pursuit of another objective; that is, U.S. manipulation of Middle East events to help move to solutions favored by the United States and Israel.

These experts believe that the attack on Saddam is, in fact, a message of intimidation for other Arab leaders as well. However, the fundamental problem for the United States is that the people of the region are not affected or scared by such messages.

Dailies Denounce Strikes

LD1601143393 *Tehran IRNA in English 1402 GMT 16 Jan 93*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Two morning dailies Saturday commented on the recent strikes of the U.S.-led allied forces on Iraq with TEHRAN TIMES denouncing the attacks and JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI saying Iraq has fallen victim of a new round of Baathist adventurism.

TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial described the attacks as a "shameful action" which "deserves to be condemned unconditionally." However, it stressed "this should not be regarded as a confirmation of Saddam or as an attempt to make a hero out of this mad dictator."

Referring to the aggressive nature of the Iraqi Government which has strong expansionist tendencies, it stressed that the Iraqi regime had dealt serious blows on the Third World countries during the past decade.

It stressed that the recent confrontation did not mean that the Baghdad regime was fighting against Western dominance but that "it so happens that the Iraqi regime's recent expansionist schemes are in conflict with the interests of the Western countries."

The daily questioned the U.S. claims that the strikes were in retaliation for Iraq's violation of the Security Council resolution. "Fortunately this time the world public opinion has not been deceived by the claims of the Western countries, and the reactions of the nations have demonstrated that they are aware that this attack is nothing other than a show of power by America during the last days of Republican administration, and is only meant to serve the U.S. interests."

The daily stressed that the Americans preferred to keep Saddam in his place "periodically pulling out its venomous fang whenever the creature becomes too restive."

Criticizing the double standard of Western world in deployment of force against countries breaching Security Council resolutions, it cited the plight of over 400 Palestinians expelled by the Zionist regime and said "no Western power exerted any pressure on Israel regarding the observance of the terms of the Security Council resolution."

On the same subject, the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in a political commentary said that once again Iraq has fallen victim of a new round of adventurism of the Baathist regime.

Provocation of the Baghdad regime motivated the Western forces stationed in the Persian Gulf and Baghdad rulers once again provided a justification for the presence of the U.S.-led allied forces in the Persian Gulf region, wrote JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

The Ba'thists had in mind creating a ballyhoo in the region and then portraying themselves as anti-U.S.

However, the Iraqi nation is vigilant and will not forget that the Baathists imposed eight years of war on the nations of Iran and Iraq on the orders of the dominating world powers.

Press Reaction

LD1701124393 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—Two morning dailies Sunday commented on the allied forces attack on Iraq on January 13 with 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' saying if the Baghdad regime deserves punishment "why not the Zionists or Serbs who are equally acting in defiance of United Nations resolutions? 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' wrote that the fire of the war must be extinguished.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its commentary said Baghdad's stubbornness has created a new round of crisis in the region. Saddam has proved that he cannot live in peace with anybody and for this reason he feels that he has to behave like a ruffian towards all in his surrounding.

"Perhaps Saddam deserves more punishment but the fact is, neither the oil war nor the recent attacks were meant to inflict blows on the person of Saddam or his power bases.

"Rather the real victims were meant to be the oppressed Iraqi nation again.

"Even today, the survival of Saddam is considered as part of 'strategic interests' of the satanic powers who insist that any attack against Iraq should never be oriented towards the power structure of the Baghdad regime," pointed out the daily.

Referring to remarks by the U.N. secretary general that the fresh attacks were not within the framework of U.N. decisions, the paper asked whether the U.N. chief considers the act of Washington and its allies as abuse of Security Council resolutions?

"If the answer is positive then why Butrus Butrus-Ghali's reaction towards the issue was so neutral and void of any clear stand?

"This better clarifies the West's double standard towards the Security Council resolutions", it said.

Moreover, the fact is, noted JOMHURI, it is not Iraq alone against whom the Security Council has not passed resolutions [sentence as received]. The UN has also passed clear-cut resolutions against the criminal acts of Israel and the savage Serbs. One must ask why the West in those two cases, looks at the issues with silence and indifference but abruptly takes up arms in the case of Iraq.

"Saddam deserves humility even more than this but here are the Iraqi people who are prone to harm and receive losses. One must ask the Security Council and the allied forces why they do not adopt a similar stand towards Israel and the Serbs?

"The answer to this question makes world nations more aware of the nature and structure of international bodies and indicates that it is useless to expect international bodies to have a just attitude," summed up JOMHURI.

Commenting on the same subject, the English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said "Saddam remains at the helm of power because Washington wants the demonizing of the Iraqi ruler to continue and consequently fish in muddy waters."

Peace and harmony in the Persian Gulf region are detrimental to American interests and it is unresolved conflicts which keep the U.S. economy in shape, it added.

"With Russia pre-occupied with post-communist upheavals and economic and political crises of the worst order, the U.S. sees no hurdle to institutionalizing its military might in the neighbourhood of the former Soviet Union.

"To this end the outgoing U.S. chief executive made it a point to send the 'right messages' to the regional Arab rulers about Saddam and on the same wavelength also tries to distort Iran's Islamic image," said KAYHAN.

Noting that the Bush administration seized every opportunity to drag the vulnerable sheikhdoms under its 'security umbrella', the editorial said "within hours of the raid the first batch of U.S. troops started arriving in the tiny sheikhdom (Kuwait) to 'protect' it from Iraq's future incursions.

"If the past is any lesson, the latest U.S. action substantially implies that Saddam will have to remain in power in Baghdad to allow the Western superpower to conduct business, as usual, in the strategic Persian Gulf region.

"Is it so difficult for the regional rulers to realize that it is the fire which should be extinguished. The smoke is of secondary importance and will automatically disappear after the fire is put out," concluded the editorial.

Commentary on War Anniversary

LD1701151493 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1058 GMT 17 Jan 93*

[Unattributed commentary: "Two Years After the Outset of the Persian Gulf War]

[Excerpts] Two years have passed since the international allied forces launched their extensive ground, air, and naval attacks against Iraq. Iraq has fallen into an abyss and its efforts to get out of it result in new crisis and fresh problems and calamities for the people of Iraq. [passage omitted]

Saddam's expansionist policies and the Western forces' excessive demands [afzoon talabi] have been called by many names such as: the Second Persian Gulf, the Oil War, and the Kuwait War. Saddam has been deceived. Saddam's assessments of the situation were wrong from the beginning, and he did not envisage a war. In order to relieve himself of domestic problems, Saddam turned to external attack. Different motives have been mentioned for Iraq's attack against Kuwait, followed by his domination of the Persian Gulf region, but there is no doubt that that destructive war has had and will have very important consequences, which can be assessed in three dimensions: domestic, regional, and international.

The domestic dimension of the war brought the annihilation of the Iraqi war machine, which the Baghdad regime had updated for years with the help of the West and during its war against Iran. [passage omitted]

Also, safe havens have been established in the north of Iraq for the Kurds and in the south for the Shiites, and Iraqi aircraft are not permitted to fly over those regions. The Iraqi Government only rules central and western regions, and the possibility of Iraq disintegrating is increasing second by second.

The regional dimension of Iraq's attack against Kuwait and the world reaction toward it led to chaos in the understanding of regional security and separate agreements signed between Arab governments of the Persian Gulf, and the West replaced regional security and defense agreements. [passage omitted]

The Western military presence has cast a shadow on the Persian Gulf's lifeline and the security of each one of the countries of the region is under threat.

The Iraqi missile attack on Israel raised a new concept for security in the Middle East, and America and the former Soviet Union, replaced by Russia afterward, tried to arrange a peace summit, the final aim of which was to secure Israel's permanent security and its integration into the region's economy and natural resources.

No doubt Iraq's attack against Kuwait accelerated America's efforts to impose its engineered peace on the region. Bilateral Arab-Israeli talks were arranged. No government except those on friendly terms with the West can bring weapons to the region in order to defend themselves.

The international dimension of the Iraqi attack, followed by the reaction of the Western allied forces, led by the United States, became a testing ground for the first steps toward the implementation of the new world order; that is, Western military expeditions to crisis-ridden regions with the permission of the UN Security Council.

Some can argue that so far nothing called the new world order has been established, but there is no doubt that the military intervention in Somalia and the imposition of economic and military sanctions against Libya are the continuation of the step that was first taken in the Persian Gulf.

Also, the America-Iraq war turned to a major axis of the U.S. election campaign. George Bush termed victory against Iraq as a bright point in his term of presidency, but he was defeated due to the failure of his economic plans inside America. Saddam can feel proud and claim that he has remained and Bush has gone, but the truth is that the West has not found an appropriate replacement for Saddam in Iraq, and it fears that a change in the Iraqi ruler would result in the strengthening of the anti-Western camp in the region.

It has also been argued that, in order to relieve himself of domestic problems and to increase the spirit of his own forces and to take advantage of the transitional period in the White House and pinning hope on Bill Clinton to bring a change in Iraq-America relations, Saddam has resorted to the recent day's activities. But no doubt the consequences of those actions are catastrophic for the region and its security and will lead to a further intensification in the military presence of the United States in the heart of the countries of the region.

Saddam's expansionist and incorrect policies, despite their negative repercussions, went to prove that world

powers and the UN Security Council apply different standards to world crisis. When dealing with Iraq, they apply force, but when dealing with Palestine and the exertion of pressure on Israel and Bosnia-Herzegovina, they safeguard the interests of their allies.

If a new world order has begun, with its birth it has brought discrimination and double standards toward world problems.

Attack on Factory

LD1801135193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1106 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Two years ago, U.S. President George Bush described the allies' war against Iraq as a war that would restore peace and calm to the region. However, recent events on the anniversary of the war have shown that peace and calm in the region have lost their colors. Moreover, only unfinished plans remain, the real objectives of which are known to only a few people. American naval forces based in the Persian Gulf launched dozens of advanced missiles against Baghdad last night. It was said that the aim of this attack was the destruction of industrial installations involved in enriching uranium for Iraq's weapons program.

Although the latest aerial attack on Iraq occurred with the participation of allied forces today, last night, for the first time since its two-year confrontation with Iraq, America organized and launched an attack on its own without the participation of its Western allies, namely France and Britain. Therefore, it is possible that a new chapter has opened in America's relations with its Western allies. It seems that, in this phase, America has abandoned all restraint in order to have complete freedom of action in choosing and destroying its target. France referred to last night's attack as purely American, and British Prime Minister John Major's approval is actually a result of Britain's traditional ties with America.

This American attack, considering the type of weapon used, has specific a meaning. The allies could have once again jointly attacked one target. But it is not yet clear why America left its allies behind and used very advanced and costly Tomahawk missiles against a target that need not have been destroyed at all. Some analysts say: in his final days at the top, Bush is proud that he has placed American armed forces at the helm of the rest of the world's armies; and that this point must have been proven in the unstable Iraqi scene.

Therefore, the use of Tomahawk missiles—which are aimed and controlled via satellites—was preferable.

But the other dimension of this American strike against Iraq is its legality, which is under debate. Tim Trevan, the British spokesman for the UN special commission to

oversee the destruction of Iraq's weapons, has said that the United Nations had no role whatsoever in deciding America's target. He reiterated: The United Nations had visited the installations attacked last night four times, and the International Atomic Energy Agency had visited the site twice.

He further said: Although some of the destroyed equipment had dual military-industrial uses, their destruction was not necessary. They should have come under control.

In any case, existing evidence shows that the brawling and destruction in the Persian Gulf region has two main pillars: America and Iraq. Moreover, these two are intensely strengthening each other in order to destroy the tranquillity of the region. The Baghdad regime and its leader are again speaking of the return of Umm al-Ma'rik, or the Mother of all Battles. And America, in the role of global policeman, is delegating objectives and responsibilities to itself under the guise of preventing insecurity and the need to obey the United Nations.

But can all this cover American and UN double-standards? And with all these diversionary excuses about the Iraqi danger, should not anyone, or any organization, hear the cries of the suffering wondering people of Palestine or the wounded of Bosnia-Herzegovina?

Press on 'Cat and Mouse' Game

LD1801141193 Tehran IRNA in English 1324 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Two dailies Monday commented on the ongoing U.S.-led allied forces air raids on Iraq with 'ABRAR' predicting that the allied forces would continue their strikes and 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' noting that in the "dirty game" between Washington and Baghdad, Iraqi masses will suffer most. Commenting on the possibility of a broader attack against Iraq in the next few days, ABRAR noted that although a crisis in Iraq could help the U.S. in its Middle East policy aimed at ensuring stability for Israel, the outcome of a long-term tension in Iraq would be ambiguous for Washington.

However, decisions of the Iraqi leaders could further fan the flames of crisis with impacts not only on Iraq but the entire region, ABRAR said.

Meanwhile, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL pointed to a recent remark by President-elect Bill Clinton as saying that he was willing to see Saddam remain in power. "If Washington truly wants peace and stability in the region and Saddam Husayn is the initiator of two wars in the region, then why should the U.S. president want him to remain in power?" it argued.

The answer was clear, said the article, adding that as long as Saddam was in power the U.S. as the major arms supplier to the oil rich states of the Persian Gulf could sell more and more weapons. "Nobody knows how long he (Saddam) will remain in power or what eventually will happen to him, but Washington's cat and mouse

play with him will certainly produce more severe outcomes for the Iraqi people and the region as a whole," the daily concluded.

Double Standards in New World Order

LD1801192993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1640 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] [Words indistinct] since the large-scale land, sea, and air attack of the international allied coalition against Iraq. This country has fallen to an abyss; with each effort to free itself, a new crisis is born and the Iraqi people are faced with new difficulties.

Two years ago the military forces of more than 30 countries led by the United States—and with the permission of the UN Security Council—started a large-scale offensive against Iraq in order to force the country's regime to leave Kuwait. Some six months previously, Saddam's regime had declared Kuwait to be its 19th province and sent its troops there.

Was Saddam deceived? Was Saddam's analysis wrong from the beginning in that he did not expect a war? Did Saddam seek a foreign offensive to free himself from domestic problems?

Setting aside the motives that have been proposed for the invasion of Kuwait and hegemony over the Persian Gulf, it is possible to analyze the very significant outcomes of this destructive war in three aspects: domestic, regional, and international.

On the domestic level, the war caused the destruction of Iraq's war machine, long-range missiles, and guns as well as nuclear facilities. Economic blockade has destroyed the people's strength. National wealth and economic infrastructures are now being destroyed one after the other.

With the aid of satellite imagery, allied aircraft go wherever they wish and destroy whatever installation that they think necessary. A security zone has been established in the north for the Kurds and in the south for the Shiites, where Iraqi planes are not allowed to fly. The government has no sovereignty except in the central and western parts, and the possibility of Iraq's dismemberment increases by the minute.

On the regional level, the Iraqi attack against Kuwait and the international response has created chaos in the meaning of regional security. Various defense pacts between Arab countries of the Persian Gulf and the West have taken the place of a regional security and defense pact. Even the Damascus declaration between the six members of the Cooperation Council with Syria and Egypt now looks like a tattered advertisement pasted on the wall.

The Western military presence dominates the vital artery of the Persian Gulf, and the security of each regional country is endangered.

The Iraqi missile attack against Israel brought about a new concept of security in the Middle East. The United States and the former Soviet Union—now Russia—tried to organize a peace conference, the ultimate aim of which was to guarantee the permanent security of Israel and its integration in the regional economy.

Without doubt the Iraqi attack against Kuwait speeded up the U.S. effort to impose its own version of peace on the region. The bilateral Israeli-Arab dialogue started and now no one—except the governments friendly to the West—has the right to bring military hardware into the region and to defend itself.

On the international level, the Iraqi attack and the subsequent reaction of the Western alliance led by the United States turned into a field for trying out the first steps toward implementing the new world order, or in other words the Western crusade, with UN Security Council permission, to areas of crisis.

Some might say that a new world order has not yet taken shape. But there is no doubt that military intervention in Somalia and the economic-military blockade of Libya is the follow-up to the steps first taken in the Persian Gulf.

America's war with Iraq also turned to be an important axis in the American elections. Saddam can be proud and claim that he has stayed while Bush has left. But the reality is that the West has not yet found a suitable alternative to Saddam in Iraq and fears that a change of sovereignty in Iraq would cause the strengthening of the regional opposition to the West.

It is said that Saddam pursued the provocations of the past several days in order to free himself from internal problems, to boost the morale of his army, and to use the transitional period in the White House in the hope that Bill Clinton will change Iraqi-U.S. relations. But there is no doubt that the consequences of these movements have led to an increase in the U.S. military presence in the heart of the countries of the region.

Whatever damage Saddam's expansionist and mistaken policies might have caused, they have proved one thing: that world powers and the Security Council measure the world crisis with two different standards. In the case of Iraq they use severe force, while in the cases of Palestine, pressure on Israel, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, they guard the interests of their own allies.

If there is a new order, it has started with bias and discrimination in dealing with the world's difficulties.

Daily Says UN 'Tool'

LD1901082793 Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—Two English dailies Tuesday editorially commented on the recent allied forces' attacks on Iraq with 'TEHRAN TIMES' saying the UN had turned to a tool in the hands of the U.S. and 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' maintaining that the entire region would suffer the outcomes and had to pay for it.

The 'TEHRAN TIMES' said that although the main victim of the recent confrontation was the Iraqi nation but in a wider scale the international rights and organisations were being "sacrificed, being in effect trampled" in the political power struggle.

"The United Nations today appears in the role of an expedient tool in the hands of the United States. Washington dictates its objectives to the Security Council and gets them approved as resolutions, and then starts implementing them."

Criticising the double standards shown by the United Nations in implementation of the resolutions, the daily said that the ones which were not "in line with American policies" were simply ignored. It mentioned resolutions dealing with developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and those about the Zionist regime's aggression as instances of the resolutions which remained on the paper.

It also termed the Monday missile attack by U.S. forces on Iraq without participation of other allied forces as a "serious mistake."

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said that although it was Iraq which was attacked, all regional countries would have to suffer and pay for the consequences.

In its editorial entitled "Paying for the Past Mistakes", the daily reiterated that it was for Baghdad's mistakes that foreign forces were here in the Persian Gulf and that "their violation of Iraq's sovereignty might even help legitimise their presence."

It deplored that the instability brought about by Iraq was "one of the reasons why so much resources, that could have been used for the development of the region, is being spent on the amassment of arms."

It stressed that Iraq's mistake also helped to divert attentions from developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"What the Iraqi situation boils down to is that with its blind ambition the Iraqi leadership defeated not just itself but the whole Iraq and the Persian Gulf region by extension," said the daily.

Georgia's Shevardnadze Arrives on Official Visit

LD1901083893 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—Georgia's Chairman of the State Council of Ministers Eduard Shevardnadze, heading a top-ranking delegation, arrived here on a two-day official visit Tuesday.

Shevardnadze was welcomed at Mehrabad International Airport by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Economics and Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh, Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari and a number of other officials were also present at the airport.

The Georgian leader is accompanied by ministers of foreign affairs, finance, industries, agriculture and health.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival, Shevardnadze termed as "significant" Iran's cooperation in the "establishment of stability and security in the Caucasus region."

Referring to the 2,600-year-old ties between the two nations of Iran and Georgia, he said that both Tehran and Tbilisi held identical views in many political and economic issues pertaining to the region.

"In my view, this visit will provide a favorable ground for the opening of a new stage in relations between the two countries to increase bilateral cooperation," he said.

The Georgian leader also referred to his previous visits to Tehran in the capacity of the foreign minister of the former Soviet Union, stressing it was a great honor for him to be received by the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni and to hold talks with Iranian officials.

Also speaking to reporters, President Rafsanjani pointed to the historical relations between the two countries and noted that there were many available domains of joint cooperation between the two countries.

Meeting With Rafsanjani

LD1901172593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] The first round of talks between President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr. Shevardnadze, chairman of the State Council of Ministers of Georgia, was held in Tehran this afternoon.

At the talks, which were also attended by the ministers of foreign affairs, finance and economic affairs, industries, agriculture and health and treatment, and a number of the two countries' officials, first Mr. Shevardnadze expressed pleasure about coming to Iran. He said: The people of Georgia are very hopeful about the outcome of

this trip. The longstanding and historic ties between Iran and Georgia have entered a new phase.

He described as very hopeful the progress made at the talks between the two countries' officials. He thanked our country's president for his positive views on expediting the agreements reached. He said that the fundamental policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning Central Asian republics, particularly Georgia, was an important factor in creating peace and stability in the region. He declared Georgia's readiness for any form of cooperation with Iran.

Then President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Mr. Shevardnadze for coming to Iran. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran regards the new conditions in Central Asia as a historic and sensitive opportunity for all the region, and is prepared to do its best to help them reduce the problems in the era of independence of the Central Asian countries. For lack of stability and peace in those countries would be harmful to the region and the world. He added: Increasing cooperation with neighboring countries is one of the bases of Iran's foreign policy. We would like to have extensive cooperation with Georgia in all desired fields. This trip is a turning point in the expansion of practical cooperation between the two countries.

At the end of this round of talks Mr. Shevardnadze invited our country's president to visit Georgia. Accepting the invitation Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that he will travel to Georgia at a suitable opportunity.

Lebanon's Nabih Birri Arrives in Tehran

LD1601233793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Lebanon's Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Birri arrived in Tehran at the head of a parliamentary delegation on Saturday evening. Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri met him at the airport.

[Unidentified correspondent] On arrival in Tehran, Lebanon's parliamentary speaker gave us an interview in which he described his trip to our country as an honor for him and his accompanying delegation. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has established its position in history, and in view of its power and influence it can play a fundamental role in maintaining peace and stability and encouraging the victory of the intifadah.

Remarking on the establishment of peace and calm in Lebanon, Nabih Birri described the holding of elections in that country as a sign of its internal stability and security. He said: After 17 years of civil war Lebanon is experiencing a period of stability and peace. We believe that Lebanon's national unity is the best weapon for fighting Zionism.

In reply to our question on his country's stance regarding the expulsion of 400 Palestinians from their land, and the future of that crisis, Birri said: It is evident that the usurper Israel will not stop short of any action in order to destroy the intifadah, hence its expulsion of the Palestinians. He stated: At present one-eighth of Lebanese territory is occupied by the Zionists. The Israelis have imprisoned 316 of our innocent people, including 13 innocent women, 100 meters away from us, in al-Khayam prison, and we are unable to do anything.

Nabih Birri said: Israel is pursuing its old policy based on killing Lebanese. It believes that, as in the past, it has to kill and we have to bury. It should know, however, that today is not like the past, and that era has come to a close.

Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri, also in an interview with us, expressed his pleasure at Nabih Birri's visit to our country. He described Iran and Lebanon as brothers, and said: This visit will be of immense benefit to both countries in terms of promoting, deepening, and expanding their fraternal ties.

The Majles speaker said that, during Birri's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the most important issues concerning the Islamic world and international developments will be discussed and examined in meetings and talks with the Lebanese parliamentary delegation. Also, the convention of parliamentary friendship committees will be studied in the course of the visit.

ICO Action Urged on Bosnia in Wake of Expired Deadline

LD1601190793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Now that the deadline specified in the Islamic countries' ultimatum to the UN Security Council on putting an end to Serbian genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina has passed, the Islamic Republic of Iran has called on the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to pursue the proposal adopted at the extraordinary meeting of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers.

Sabah Zanganeh, the Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent representative to the ICO, declared this stance of our country in a meeting with ICO Secretary General Hamid Algabid. He then submitted a message from Foreign Minister Velayati on the state of the Babri Mosque. In the meeting, he also called on Islamic countries to take more serious action in the face of the tragedy of the demolition of Babri mosque.

The ICO secretary general, stressing the importance of the issue of the demolition of Babri Mosque, pledged to take appropriate action toward pursuing this matter.

Pakistan

Indian Consulate Agrees To Send Home 44 Diplomats

BK1501122993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
14 Jan 93 p 12

[Text] Karachi, Jan 14—The Indian Consulate here has agreed to send back home 44 of its diplomatic and non-diplomatic staff in accordance with the Pakistan Government's directive to reduce their strength in Karachi.

Consul General Rajiv Dogra told THE MUSLIM that these people will leave Karachi by the 31st of this month.

A consulate press release issued later Thursday [14 January], however, felt that since the mission's strength will be left at 20, visa problems will have to be faced by those intending to visit India.

Minister: 'Great Concern' Over Iraq Attack

BK1601121193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16
Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Sukkur: Defence Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah said that the recent attack of the Allied forces on Iraq has been viewed with great concern by Pakistan. He said that the Allied forces have not asked for troops from Pakistan. He was talking to newsmen on Friday [15 January].

He said that Pakistan wanted the sovereignty of both Iraq and Kuwait to be fully protected.

Responding to a question, the defence minister said that the allegation that the president resorted to favouritism while promoting General Abdul Waheed as the Chief of Army Staff was not correct. This decision has been taken by him in the interest of the country and no objection has been made by any of the generals.

He said the army could not remain in Sindh permanently. Their return to barracks would be considered in February this year. He said ultimately it was the duty of the Sindh Government to maintain law and order in Sindh.

Responding to another question, the defence minister said that the meeting between Mian Nawaz Sharif and Ms Benazir Bhutto was expected soon and added that cooperation and collaboration between the treasury [as published] and the opposition would strengthen democracy.

Police Foil Attempt To Stage Pro-Iraq Rally

BK1801142693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT
18 Jan 93

[Excerpt] KARACHI, Jan 18 (AFP)—Pakistani police foiled Monday [18 January] an attempt by an Islamic fundamentalist party to stage a protest rally against the U.S.-led allied raids on Iraq. Despite an official ban on

gatherings, about a dozen activists of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (JUP) party gathered at the city centre here on party chief Shah Ahmed Noorani's instructions.

In a lightning move police snatched their banners and placards and chased them away, witnesses reported. The rally was announced to condemn the missile attack on Baghdad and "genocide" of Muslims in Kashmir and Bosnia.

Noorani in an appeal to make the rally successful had castigated the attacks, claiming that U.S. President George Bush wanted to push the world "into flames."

Talking to JUP youths Sunday, he warned that Pakistan would be Washington's next target as the Western media was already busy in "preparing ground to declare Pakistan a terrorist state."

Noorani had backed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during the Gulf War. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Urges 'Equitable' UN Resolution Promotion

BK1801143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in
English 1400 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Responding to a question about the latest attack on Iraq, the Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today referred to the statement issued on January 14, 1993. He regretted the loss of innocent lives. The spokesman felt that the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions should be promoted on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis. In this context, he referred to the council's resolutions on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, and Jammu and Kashmir.

U.S. Punishment of Iraq 'Obviously Overdone'

BK1501155593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15
Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Punishing Saddam"]

[Text] While Saddam Husayn may be accused of being foolhardy, his adversaries, who fancy themselves as the "conscience-keepers" of the civilised world, have been guilty of retaliating in a manner which, to say the least, is grossly disproportionate to the offence "the man on their hit-list" is said to have committed. The so-called "raiding missions" into Kuwaiti territory, ironically blown out of proportion by no less a person than the UN Secretary-General, could have been overlooked as minor irritants invariably associated with a dispute. The material taken away by the Iraqis was, as Baghdad has rightly claimed, their property and the UN Observation Mission had authorized its removal by Iraq. Nonetheless, Butrus-Ghali lived up to his reputation as "his master's voice" and offered his sponsors in Washington the alibi they needed to arrogate to themselves the right to give Saddam Husayn a "sharp, telling lesson." The Allied bombing of south Iraq, though not as devastating as the one carried out during "Operation Desert Storm," and

intended to be more of a warning than a full-fledged attack, is illustrative of how the self-designated leaders of the civilised world are likely to deal with dissidents.

What is really a matter of concern for the small nations is the arbitrariness of the overlords. The UN, as anybody with a modicum of common sense can see, has been relegated to a "showpiece," and it has even stopped making the pretence of taking initiatives independent of the "godfathers" who stage-manage its functioning. If this is what the New World Order is going to be like, then there is no way to stop the Americans and their surrogates from imposing on independent, sovereign nations a regime of "bullying and blackmail." Notwithstanding Saddam Husayn's reckless venture for which he has paid a heavy price, his greatest offence has been his ability to survive the onslaught let loose by the US-led coalition in the garb of vacating aggression from Kuwait. And while the campaign to liquidate his regime continues in one or the other form, those who have taken upon themselves the task of punishing the aggressor are accountable to no one and have the audacity to change the rules of the game to suit their convenience. Punishing Saddam Husayn in Washington has been so obviously overdone that it cannot arouse any sympathy or support, notwithstanding Baghdad's dubious reputation.

Sharif Seeks Cooperation in National Affairs

BK1601144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said we want to end the politics of confrontation and take the opposition along in dealing with the national issues in the greater interest of the country. He was talking to newsmen in Lahore today. He said he has extended cooperation to the leader of the opposition with all sincerity to run the national affairs according to the mandate given by the masses to the politicians of the country. Do not you think it is a good step, was the reply of the prime minister when a newsman sought his comments on election of Ms. Benazir Bhutto as chairperson of the [Parliament's] Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. The politician should play a right and positive role in national politics, according to the aspirations of the people. They have been elected by them to run the national affairs in a purposeful and effective manner, he added.

The prime minister said the government likes to exchange cooperation with the opposition to undertake development work, mitigate the sufferings of the poor people and completely enforce the rule of law in the country. These objectives could only be achieved in the presence of a congenial political atmosphere.

On the demolition of Babri Mosque, he said Pakistan forcefully raised this tragic issue at the international level and it was on the top of the list of the Islamic countries which have lodged a strong protest with the Indian Government. The Pakistan Government is doing

its utmost in drawing the attention of the world community to the communal riots in India and massacre of Muslims on a large scale. He asked the Indian Government to effectively control the situation to check communal riots and take steps for the reconstruction of Babri Mosque as it had promised to do. Work on the reconstruction of mandirs [Hindu temples] damaged in Pakistan in reaction to the demolition of the Babri Mosque has already started. In most cases, the reconstruction work has been completed.

On the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia, the prime minister said those who talked of human rights most had been silent spectators on the massacre of Muslims there. He described it as a worst type of violation of human rights and asked the world community to perform their due role on this tragic issue as it had done on some other cases.

Earlier inaugurating a two-day seminar on self-reliance in defense and the role of private sector in defense production, the prime minister said his government has taken important decisions to create a broad-based industrial sector to strengthen the national defense. Both the government and the private sector would have to work out a strategy to overcome problems to achieve self-reliance in defense production. The prime minister said he was keen to see cooperation and collaboration between the Ministry of Defense Production and the private sector in the defense industry. They should jointly work out a plan to achieve self-reliance in this field. They would have the blessing of the entire nation. The prime minister wanted the private sector to utilize all their capabilities in the field of defense production and use advance technology for achieving self-reliance. The government, he assured, would extend all possible assistance to the private entrepreneurs. He said a militarily strong Pakistan would help deescalate tension in this region and create peaceful atmosphere for undertaking development work within the country at a faster pace. Pakistan wants to keep itself aloof from the arms race. We have been pursuing a peaceful atomic energy program and have no aggressive designs against any country. However, he said, Pakistan had been taking steps to strengthen its defense capability and deterrence against aggressive designs of any country.

Presenting the address of welcome, Mr. Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, the federal minister of defense production, said the present government was of the view that an advanced defense industry could not be set up without the involvement of the private sector.

The seminar has been jointly organized by the Ministry of Defense and the Lahore Chambers of Commerce and Industry. It was also attended by the Punjab governor, the chief minister, experts and industrialists from all over the country.

Bhutto Denies Secret Agreement With Government

BK1801024293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, has described as erroneous the impression about any secret agreement with the government. Talking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday, she said her election as the chairperson of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee cannot keep the opposition from criticizing the wrong policies of the government. She added that the foreign policy is framed by the Parliament and not by the Foreign Affairs Committee and the opposition reserves the right to express its viewpoints in the Parliament.

Afghans Reportedly Accept Delegation's Peace Offer

BK1801121893 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 17—The head of 29-member delegation sent here by the President of Afghanistan Prof. Borhanuddin Rabbani for peace talks to the Afghan leaders staying in Pakistan, Ayatollah Mohsini, has claimed that his offer to initiate talks for the peaceful solution of their differences has been accepted by all the annoyed Afghan leaders.

Addressing a press conference here Sunday [17 January], he claimed that these leaders had agreed to go to Afghanistan for such talks "after finishing their works in Pakistan" and expressed the hope to leave with them within a week. The delegation would stay here till such a departure, he said.

Answering a question, he admitted that Shura Hal-o-Aq has failed to restore peace in Afghanistan but hoped that they would be able to resolve their differences peacefully.

He also claimed that all the Afghan leader's to whom he met for this purpose including Maulana Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Maulana Yunes Khales, Pir Sayed Ahmad Gaylani, and Sebghatollah Mojaddedi warmly received them and welcomed his proposals.

Relations With U.S. Said at 'Rock Bottom'

BK1701125593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 17 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan-US Relations"]

[Text] What was once a close warm friendly alliance has now touched rock bottom. For almost four decades we have nursed our relations with the US and though in the opinion of some we have been the losers from the start, the government and people of Pakistan have become so accustomed to the idea of a Pakistan-US alliance that now that this seems to be on the rocks and is in danger of coming to an abrupt

and unhappy end, we find ourselves confused and uncertain. American policy makers and political leaders are slowly but surely swinging over to a well defined bias towards Pakistan's arch enemy India. Some of our foreign policy experts may be surprised by the latest turn of events, but close observers know that India has always been close to America, which has regarded India as a democracy espousing free enterprise, and as such has sought by subtle ways to build her up to counter the Chinese socialist model of economic development.

Pakistan acquired some importance in the context of the American Cold War necessities and once this was over with the demise of the Soviet Union, US perceptions of Pakistan's strategic importance underwent a radical change and now America does not feel the need of Pakistan's territory or its armed might in the region. These changed perceptions have led to such hostile acts as the application of the Pressler Amendment to deny Pakistan weapons for its defence, and reduction of all forms of aid. Both on the flimsy excuse that Pakistan was striving for nuclear capability and was supporting 'terrorism' in Kashmir and Indian Punjab by aiding and supplying arms to the rebels in Kashmir and East Punjab.

At the end of the Bush era the US continues to exert pressure on Pakistan to modify its foreign policies and to surrender to Indian hegemony. By calling Pakistan's diplomatic and political aid to the freedom fighters of Kashmir waging a valiant struggle against Indian barbarism terrorism the Americans are trying to force us to abandon the people of Kashmir to the mercy of India. The US refuses to look upon Kashmir as disputed territory and is trying to compel us to sacrifice our national interests in this area. Likewise we are being accused of aiding and even instigating the Sikhs struggling for a homeland in Indian Punjab. America calls this "interfering in the internal affairs of India."

Today Pakistan is faced with a very difficult choice of winning back US friendship by the surrender of our vital national interests and our national security. The terms on which we can do business with America are nothing short of national suicide. No party in Pakistan can advocate such a course of action and no government could last long if it agreed to the humiliating terms of the US.

We have too long wallowed in the luxury of American aid, but now if we mean to defend our existence as an independent state we have to learn to live without US aid and patronage. This means a radical change over to an austere, Spartan mode of life where we sacrifice our present comforts for long term benefits. We have to translate into action the professed ideals of our leaders. The alternative is continued humiliation and subordination to Indian hegemony, and a steady erosion of our own cherished values.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Tiger Guerrillas Announce Death of Leader

BK1701065493 Hong Kong AFP in English of 0650 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] COLOMBO, Jan 17 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas announced Sunday [17 January] the death of one of their senior leaders on board a ship which had been intercepted by the Indian navy.

The clandestine radio of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the Sathasivam Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, died a hero onboard the M.V. Ahad Saturday.

The "Voice of Tigers" said Kittu had a "veera maranam" or attained martyrdom aboard the ship which sank Sunday after a fire which ended a two-day stand off with the navy. The vessel was 12 nautical miles off Madras,

capital of India's Tamil Nadu state, when it was reportedly set on fire by its crew Saturday after being intercepted by Indian gunships, according to the Indian Defence Ministry. Reports from India had said that Kittu threatened to blow himself up if the Indians tried to take him prisoner.

Indian authorities had said in New Delhi that the navy rescued nine people who jumped overboard but the fate of nine others, including Kittu, was not known.

A Paris-based spokesman of the LTTE Lawrance Tilakar said Saturday that Kittu was arrested and taken to New Delhi for interrogation and accused India of putting out "false information with the intention of killing him."

Both Indian and Sri Lankan authorities have said the LTTE-owned M.V. Ahad was bringing arms, ammunition and explosives for Tiger guerrillas in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula.